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OCTOBER 1999
VOL.40 NO.1

Cover shot: Jari Litmanen (Barcelona)

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Classified Advertising 0171-261 2823
Back Issues 0181-503 0588

International licensing enquiries
00 44 (0)171-261 7715/7082
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ipcmagazines
'A commitment to excellence'
Distributed by Marketforce
ABC Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations

SUBSCRIPTION HOTLINE
01622 778778
SUBSCRIPTION RATES/ INFORMATION
Annual subscription is for 12 months (13 issues) UK: £32.50. Airmail Europe (inc. VAT): £33 (airmail). Airmail Zone A (Middle East & Africa): £35. Airmail Zone B (Americas): £40. Airmail Zone C (Australia, Far East and Rest of World): £45. Surface Worldwide: £28. Price includes contribution to postage.
Send orders to PO Box 272, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 3DH
General enquiries & overseas orders: 00 44 (0)1444-445555.

WORLD SOCCER is a member of ESM
EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES
A Bola (Portugal), **don balon** (Spain), **Foot** (Belgium), **Kicker** (Germany), **Gazzetta dello Sport** (Italy), **France Football** (France), **Sport** (Switzerland), **Voetbal International** (Holland), **WORLD SOCCER** (UK)

Contents

October 1999

In football these days size matters more than quality. So welcome to a Champions League featuring the likes of Willem II, who have never been champions of Holland, and Boavista, who have yet to win a championship in Portugal. But regardless of what UEFA chooses to call the expanded competition, *World Soccer* will persist in publishing quality guides to all the teams.

This season, our guide to Europe's premier club competition is better than ever. The 36-page magazine, free with this issue, has been produced in association with ONdigital, who will be broadcasting Champions League matches live throughout the season. ONdigital's coverage will include *World Soccer*'s very own TV show, *World Soccer ON...*, which will be shown before Tuesday night matches (the first three games are Man United-Croatia Zagreb, Hertha Berlin-Chelsea and Chelsea-Galatasaray). It's an exciting development for *World Soccer* – a first in football publishing – and we hope it will become essential viewing. **Gavin Hamilton, Editor** (gavin_hamilton@ipc.co.uk)

16

16 COVER STORY
Stars of the Champions League

We talk to:

Predrag Mijatovic **16**
Jari Litmanen **18**
Lothar Matthaus **19**
Nicolas Anelka **20**
Zvonimir Boban **22**
Tony Adams **23**
Claudio Reyna **24**
Gianfranco Zola **26**

51 Euro 2000 countdown

Focus on Slovenia

Pro-files

53 Darko Kovacevic
55 Johan Micoud
59 Christian Ziege
61 Robert Waseige
63 Runar Kristinson
65 Sasa Ciric
69 Dida
73 Phil Masinga

REGULARS

Keir Radnedge 4
Libero 6
World Service 35
Crossword 75
Brian Glanville 80

WORLD NEWS

Italy 52
Spain 54
France 55
Germany 56
England 58
UK 59
Western Europe 60
Eastern Europe 64
South America 68
CONCACAF 71
Africa 72
Asia 74

24

23

69

Keir Radnedge
Executive Editor
COMMENTARY

Mick and Ruud and that all-important Quote

Same quote, different outcome...Ruud Gullit and (inset) Mick McCarthy

MICK McCARTHY and Ruud Gullit may not appear to have much in common. One is in a job, one is out. One is riding the crest of a wave, one has been washed away. One is a blunt-spoken Yorkshireman, the other a cosmopolitan Dutchman. But both have made a common singular admission about their jobs.

That, in itself, is something of a minor wonder because the media mania for The Quote rarely throws up anything more meaningful than a limited number of variations of either 'the boy done good' or the 'I was unsighted' variety.

Louise Taylor, writing in *The Times*, once famously exploded the myth of The Quote and infuriated a whole swathe of football reporters by making them face the unpleasant fact that they spend long chunks of Saturday evenings standing around in stadium car parks dutifully recording every banality for recycling over the next few days.

No wonder many managers hate set-piece press conferences. Brian Clough found them so predictably tedious that he refused to attend, long before the sad end of his reign at Nottingham Forest. Ron Atkinson and Jack Charlton amused themselves with their own sharp and/or acerbic wit. Kenny Dalglish swiftly became a past master of the silent put-down, a withering glance alone demanding by what right someone outside the quasi-masonic football men's lodge dared ask an awkward question.

Why the media should expect men whose talent is a physically reactive one to demonstrate equal facility at verbal reasoning is one of the mysteries of this sporting life. Occasionally the odd jewel pops out and Gullit and McCarthy offered the same glittering diamond within a couple of days of each other.

For a football manager to say: 'I didn't understand quite how big this job is,' would be peculiar enough coming from a newcomer to that stressful profession. But Gullit and his assistant at Newcastle, Steve Clarke, admitted it in the wake of the Dutchman's sudden departure, while McCarthy mouthed the self-same words about being Republic of Ireland boss.

When you hear football men of major status offering such revelations, it reinforces the need for a football media made up of men and women with the courage of their own convictions and perspectives.

Just about every commentator, when Gullit took the Newcastle job, stressed the enormous profile and expectation surrounding the post. Why didn't Gullit understand? It was not as if he had been suddenly plucked from a retirement home in Milan.

Gullit had been three years in English football. Had he been so London-centric that he failed to understand the pride, the passion and the associated problems of bossing Newcastle? United's directors may bear plenty of blame for events there, but Gullit's own breathtaking admission relayed via Clarke after the Dutchman's flight to Amsterdam demonstrates his own massive culpability. Did he believe, perhaps, that he was bigger than the club?

McCarthy's similar admission is perhaps more intriguing though, again, it says much about the ego-twisting pressures to which managers are victim. McCarthy, remember, had won 57 caps for the Irish Republic under Jack Charlton and shared in their greatest moments. He had experienced, at first hand, the thrill of success, and basked in the adulation of their wonderful fans at World Cups and European Championships. He was no novice manager, either, when he began his rebuilding job three years ago.

McCarthy recognised his initial misjudgment and rose to the challenge; Gullit did not recognise his misjudgment until too late.

Meanwhile the media will go on pursuing The Quote and The Angle with relentless enthusiasm. But if a newspaper or radio station goes to the expense of sending its own employee to report a match, then it is his or her views that should be paramount. Even if they go against the grain.

For example, while what used to be called Fleet Street lined up to hail the romantic reunion of Newcastle with their long-time target, Bobby Robson, James Lawton in the *Express* begged to differ, wondering why a man with nothing to prove should want to work for directors with such a tacky record.

The answer, of course, is that Robson idolised Newcastle United as a kid and those boyhood allegiances stay with us all, from a Jack the Lad on the terrace to a Jack Walker in the boardroom.

And you can quote me on that.

Beware the burn-out factor

ZINEDINE ZIDANE won all the media's top honours last year. He was voted *World Soccer*'s Player of the Year, European Footballer of the Year, French Sportsman of the Year and FIFA's World Footballer of the Year.

He was almost too busy collecting awards to play for Juventus and France. Then, when he did, he damaged a knee so badly that Juventus crashed out of the European Cup and the Italian championship race.

A year earlier Zidane, two-goal star of France's World Cup Final triumph over Brazil, was everyone's hero. Now he is back at square one, needing to prove himself all over again.

He isn't the first and he certainly won't be the last. It's not a European phenomenon. In Brazil, dozens of young players burn out in their mid-20s through the sheer fatigue induced by a competitively disorganised season.

Zidane returned to the French squad for the season-opening European Championship qualifiers against Ukraine, whose squad included Andrii Shevchenko, the new attacking hero of European football.

A week earlier, Shevchenko scored a debut goal in the Italian League to begin repaying Milan the £15million he cost them from Kyiv Dynamo. Whether Shevchenko will look quite as bright in a year's time is another matter.

Battling back from injury...World Player of Year Zinedine Zidane

Talking shop...but for what?

Speaking out...Barcelona coach Louis Van Gaal

A WEDGE is being driven between the men in suits who run football and its myriad competitions, and the men in tracksuits who have to pick the teams and play the games.

UEFA, the European federation, organised an elite coaches' talk-in which everyone was free to attend, thanks to the fact that most of their players had flown off simultaneously to all corners of the continent for the season's first batch of European Championship qualifying matches.

It was a star-studded line-up (in alphabetical order): Fabio Capello (Roma), Sir Alex Ferguson (Man United), Ottmar Hitzfeld (Bayern), Gerard Houllier (Liverpool), Marcello Lippi (Inter), Otto Rehhagel (Kaiserslautern), Michael Skibbe (Dortmund), John Toshack (Real Madrid), Louis Van Gaal (Barcelona) and Alberto Zaccheroni (Milan).

Van Gaal said he was attending because of the need "to defend football". He is worried that the demands of the newly-expanded Champions League will weaken the status of domestic competitions, that fans will become bored by a surfeit of football on television and that players will be worn down long before retirement date.

Ironically, the source of such concerns is the greed of the big clubs (such as Barcelona, of course) for more and more money produced by more and more sponsors through more and more television fed on more and more matches.

An idea that was more favourable consideration was the use of two extra referees' assistants to patrol behind the goal-line and pay special attention to penalty box infringements.

UEFA technical director Andy Roxburgh noted that "one or two of our colleagues would also like to look into the technology side of it" – meaning electronic goal-line adjudication.

One issue on which, hardly surprisingly, they all agreed was that European competition suspension regulations need to be refined. That was a particular concern of Sir Alex Ferguson, remembering how Roy Keane was forced to miss the Champions League Final last term through suspension.

As UEFA general secretary Gerd Aigner – who sat in on the talk-in – conceded: "The system may sometimes punish fair players at quite the wrong moment ,when they have the chance of a lifetime to play a big final. The basic rules cannot be changed but we will have to see whether there are possibilities to amend them so that the best players do not become victims at the wrong moment."

Perhaps UEFA should have listened to the football men BEFORE they dictated the expansion of the Champions League. The fixtures horse has bolted. As one newspaper headline commented, cynically: "Summit for nothing."

Ronaldinho: 'I can handle the pressure'

Keyvan Antonio Heydari meets the teenager all of Brazil is talking about

Thumbs up...Ronaldinho impressed at the Copa America in Paraguay

First of all, why are you known as Ronaldinho?
When I was growing up I was known as Ronaldinho [little Ronaldo], then as I got older I became just Ronaldo. But when I got into the national team [for the recent Copa America], I returned to Ronaldinho because Ronaldo was already there!

Everybody seems to want a piece of your time. It can't be easy.
That's true. There are a lot of people. But I try to treat them well in the best way possible. Before being a player I was also a fan, and I always wanted to be close to the great players. So I know how it is to be on the other side of the fence. That's why I always try to have a lot of patience. It's great when somebody asks for my autograph, because they are recognising what I do.

Who did you used to ask for autographs?
One of the only ones whose autograph I asked for was Valdo. He played for Gremio when I was small. I kept his autograph in my wallet everywhere I went.

Do you worry about the future?
Nobody knows, there could be another player who comes along, maybe I'm not at my best, and football is a game that is played for the moment. If you're not at your best, somebody better will take your place. So I have to play well, always try my best. Otherwise, I won't be in the national team for very long.

I saw you practising tricks with the ball. Tell me about the reaction to your goal against Venezuela.
Almost nobody knew who I was, then after that goal my whole life began to change. Everybody wanted to know who I was, where did I come from, what team did I play for, what did I do. All the journalists wanted to know me. And now everybody is curious about what I do or don't do.

Ronaldo started like that too, but then the pressure became

stronger and stronger. Are you worried about that?
No, I always talk about it with Ronaldo, and other experienced players like Cafu. They've advised me about what might happen in the future. So I am getting ready. I don't think I will have any problems. I'll use their advice. I've not had any problems so far, and I don't think I will in the future.

What did Ronaldo and Cafu say?
They told me about the press, about how when you are not playing well you have to show that you're trying to do your best. I think the most important thing is to play with a clean conscience. I always set out to do my best.

Why do all Brazilian goalscorers have protruding front teeth?
I don't know! Now that I'm returning to Brazil, I'm putting on an [orthodontic] brace to correct it. With teeth like this it's difficult to close my mouth, and I have to breathe exclusively through my mouth, almost never through my nose. My physical stamina will get better. It doesn't bother me [at the moment], because I'm breathing well. It's just that breathing through the mouth lowers my stamina. So when I breathe through the nose, I'll be stronger.

What is the strongest part of your game?
I try to train at all aspects: heading, passing, shooting, dribbling. But what I really like to do is dribble at defenders. To go at centre-backs, at full-backs. So my secret is when I get the ball, I go straight at the defenders and that's when I feel my best.

That goal against Venezuela looked as if you were toying with the defender.
I went at the defender and the only way I had of getting around him was to touch the ball over him. So I lifted it over him and shot.

Have you always been at Gremio?
Yes, and I was always a Gremio fan.

But you are not the typical *Gaucho* footballer.
I am already used to playing in the *Gaucho* championship and playing in that style, which has tougher marking and is a rougher game. So I was able to adapt to playing in that style. Today, nobody criticises me and I'm very happy.

Do you have any weaknesses?
Heading. I train quite a bit, but I have never been the best header of the ball. But in the *Gaucho* championship I've already scored four goals with my head, and for the *selecao* [national team] I've already scored with my head. I'm training quite a bit and it's already producing results.

What did you think when you saw the 1998 World Cup Final?
Nobody knew what was going on with Ronaldo. For those who weren't there it was difficult to know what was happening.

Did you get angry or did you think: 'I want to be there and do something'?
I wanted to be there, and I have talked with the players who were there. They wanted to play and nothing worked. It was the day everything went wrong for Brazil.

But, right now, everything is going right for you.
Yes, but I'm always trying to improve, to evolve. With every tournament, I will get better.

WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?

BRAZIL went into the Copa America heavy with memories of Ronaldo and 1998. By the end of their first game, though, all the talk was of the new Ronaldo and 1958.

Ronaldinho Gaucho, 19, scored a goal against Venezuela – lobbing the ball over a defender's head, spurting past another before blasting into the Venezualan net – that brought back memories of one scored by the teenage Pele in the 1958 World Cup Final. In a matter of seconds Ronaldinho lifted any remnants of the gloom that had hung over the Brazil team since that crushing defeat at Stade de France. The giant nation instantly took him to its heart.

Throughout the rest of the competition the Brazilian public called for Ronaldinho's introduction. Many had hardly heard of him until the wonder goal. But it took years of work to become an overnight sensation.

Ronaldinho was outstanding as Brazil won the Under-17 world title in Egypt in 1997, and in the same year he was given his debut by Gremio.

The call-up to the full national team came when Edilson was bizarrely axed from the squad for starting a brawl by indulging in a spot of ball juggling in a club game. Within two weeks came the goal that saw Ronaldinho dubbed the new phenomenon.

But the young forward is well aware of the pitfalls in his path, and not just because of the well-publicised problems of his namesake. His older brother Assis, currently playing in Japan, was once seen as a great promise. With his first big contract he bought a house with a swimming pool, in which their father later tragically drowned.

Tim Vickery

FINANCIAL FOOTBALL

United's rule may not last long

By Oliver Butler

A RECENT survey claimed that Manchester United were the richest club in the world. The figures were based on turnover in 1996-97, and last year United increased their turnover to £87million, with the money from the victorious Champions League campaign to boost their income even further.

Despite this, however, United fans may well feel frustrated at seeing record transfers being concluded on the continent while at Old Trafford the only major signing has been Mark Bosnich, without a transfer fee being needed. So how is it that 'poorer' clubs such as Inter, Lazio and Real Madrid are spending such vast sums without going cap in hand to their bank, while to date United have spent nothing?

Firstly, clubs in Italy and Spain have increased their spending power by agreeing individual TV deals with broadcasters. Barcelona recently signed a £50m-a-year deal for TV rights to their games from 2003-8, which, typically, Real Madrid sought to upstage by announcing a bigger deal over the same period.

In Italy, the top five clubs will receive up to £39m a year through pay-per-view. In comparison, Manchester United can expect to receive only up to £10m in one season from domestic TV rights. The recent judgment safeguarding the BSkyB/Premier League agreement means that United must wait until after 2001 to receive increased income from an improved deal. Even then it will still be a fraction of what their Italian and Spanish counterparts will be earning in the next five years.

Hence United's attempts to increase income through their much-hyped trips to Australia and China.

This projected income from TV also helps the continental clubs to obtain lines of credit from banks, thus enabling them to spend large amounts. In addition, these clubs have a more symbiotic relationship with their banks thanks to relations forged by their industrialist owners or through the clubs' long-held integral role in the political and economic history of their regions. English clubs have only just assumed this latter status and so have been denied the increased lines of credit it offers. Meanwhile, United's fully listed status obliges them to follow strict accounting procedures and seek to report and maximise profits regularly. This has meant that while the club have not run up the £100m debt that plagues Real Madrid, for instance, they are limited in what they can spend on new players.

Chief executive Martin Edwards has said that United cannot afford to venture into the transfer market because they need money for their new youth academy and to expand stadium capacity. But it is not for purely financial reasons that United have made so few buys in recent months. Continental squads have greater fluidity and many clubs think nothing of deconstructing a successful team in the summer. Juventus, for example, won the Champions League in 1996 and promptly sold the bulk of the team.

United's title as the world's richest club is an accident of history, the result of them being only the second club to float on the stock exchange, after Tottenham. United's transition to a public limited company coincided with an unprecedented increase in TV revenues from BSkyB. Now it is the turn of big clubs on the continent to go through the process, and all the signs are that they are doing so with relish.

Should a similar survey be carried out in a couple of years, United will be lucky to make the top five. But you are unlikely to hear much about it. 'Man United – sixth richest club in the world' is hardly an attention-grabbing headline.

Oliver Butler works for Soccer Investor (0171-329 3500)

Stand by for the Sugar Boyz

Graham Pilcher reports from St Kitts on Podd's squad and their World Cup hopes

Making plans...St Kitts FA president Peter Jenkins and technical director Cec Podd

BETS are not being hedged among soccer lovers on St Kitts & Nevis, the two-island federation in the eastern Caribbean.

They are convinced that their team, already dubbed the Sugar Boyz, will beat the Reggae Boyz of Jamaica through the labyrinthine CONCACAF qualifying process and make it to the World Cup in Japan and Korea in 2002.

Who says so? FA president Peter Jenkins, for one. Then there's the ruling Labour government, committed to bolstering their economy, with the traditional sugar industry in decline, through sports tourism.

They have pledged support, both financial and moral, to FA technical director Cec Podd, who took charge a year ago after a record 502 League appearances for Bradford City between 1970-84, and a spell as a youth coach at Leeds United.

"I was over here on holiday just after Jamaica had made it to France 98 when I spoke to Peter, and he made me believe we could do it," said 47-year-old Podd, now settled back in the homeland he left at the age of nine, when his parents emigrated to Leeds.

Great strides have been made by the Sugar Boyz, the Leeward Island champions, although there was huge disappointment at the Caribbean Cup finals in Trinidad & Tobago in June. That was one of the first big tests of Podd's reign. "We got hammered 5-0 by Brazil Under-21s," he recalled. "Then we lost 2-0 to both Haiti and Cuba. But it taught me certain things about the team.

"This game is 80 per cent psychological and 20 per cent technical, and we have to become tougher mentally. For that we need to face teams from different countries and different styles.

"Sometimes the guys just switch off. They have a laid-back lifestyle and occasionally play like it."

Podd dropped some of the established players, whom he perceived as moaning too much and being the cause of splits in the dressing-room at the Caribbean Cup. In their place, he has put his faith in youth, players such as 16-year-old striker Jevon Francis, capped three times while only 15.

Podd believes that 17-year-old goalkeeper Akil Byron already is one of the best in the Caribbean, although unlikely to grow much taller than his current 5ft 11in.

Podd says: "He will fill out and he is already very good in the air, with safe hands and the ability to command his area well. He is confident and brave and I would like him to go and train in England, because I believe it would be good for him to be exposed to top coaching there."

George 'Yellowman' Isaac is another earmarked for England if work permits can be secured. This pugnacious 21-year-old midfielder covers every blade of grass and is a real crowd pleaser. He trained with Oldham and Huddersfield Town a year ago but was injured and returned home.

Austin 'Dico' Huggins is the skipper and, at 29, is unlikely to find it easy to move overseas, but he shows great strength and composure on the ball.

Keith Gumbs, a 26-year-old striker playing in Greece with Panionios, was recommended by Podd to Bradford City, his former club. Gumbs showed up well in the recent second annual St Kitts & Nevis Football Festival, playing against Bradford. The Premiership side beat the locals 4-1.

It was all part of the learning process for Podd and his squad. "This is what we need to make the players tougher, not only to be the best team in the Caribbean but to have an impact on world football," he said. He regarded it all as a stepping stone in his five-year plan costing £220,000.

The Government are committed and determined to attract major sponsors. Next year's festival is likely to be a four-team affair with women's matches to raise interest among the female population.

The T-shirts worn by members of the team and backroom staff summed up the sense of unity and purpose in St Kitts & Nevis, who became members of FIFA only in 1994. The slogan read: "One team, one mission". You have been warned.

Last chance to Vote for your Top 10!

...and take the chance to decide the century's best players

HAVE you nominated your Top 10 players of the century yet? Time is running out, and we want you to send us your list of the world's greatest footballers, past or present.

Your top 10 selections will be used to compile a Readers' Top 100 players of the century, which will be published in our final issue of the millennium.

To cast your vote, enter the players' names in order of preference on the coupon. Whoever you think was the greatest player of the century, enter his name, in capitals please, in the space for No 1. Then do the same with the rest of your top 10 choices. When we receive your completed coupon, we will award 10 points to each No 1 selection, nine points to No 2 and so on, and from this calculate the century's top players.

Please help us to make this into the most comprehensive soccer survey ever by completing and returning the coupon to us by the end of October. Enjoy your decision-making!

My Top 10 in CAPITAL letters, please

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

9 _____

10 _____

My name _____

My address _____

_____

_____

_____

Country _____

OCT

COACHES ON THE MOVE

Olsen to lead Denmark

Taking charge...Morten Olsen

Morten Olsen, who led both Brondby and Ajax to domestic championships, will succeed **Bo Johansson** as Denmark coach in July 2000.

Georges Leekens lost his job as coach of Belgium following the 4-3 friendly home defeat by Finland. It was the team's fourth consecutive loss on their own soil. Former Standard Liege and Sporting Lisbon coach **Robert Waseige** will lead the team into the Euro 2000 tournament, which Belgium is co-hosting. *See profile, page 61.*

Frank Farina is Australia's new national coach. The 35-year-old former international succeeds caretaker **Raul Blanco** and becomes the first Australian to lead the national side.

Peru coach **Juan Carlos Oblitas** has resigned after three years in charge.

Antti Muurinen, currently at HJK Helsinki, will take over as national coach of Finland next year when **Richard Moller Nielsen's** contract expires.

The United Arab Emirates sacked Portuguese coach **Carlos Quieroz** after the 1-0 defeat by Palestine in the Pan Arab Games.

Newcastle boss **Ruud Gullit** resigned a year after succeeding Kenny Dalglish. The team had taken just one point from five games. Gullit is succeeded by ex-England coach **Bobby Robson**.

Otar Korgalidze has succeeded Johan Boskamp as coach of Dinamo Tbilisi.

Lokeren and **Willy Reynders** parted company after just two games – both defeats – of the Belgian season. Assistant **Rudy Cossey** is caretaker.

Ferencvaros boss **Joszef Mucha** quit just three games after taking charge. The Hungarian side had failed to win a game.

Carlos Alberto Torres, Brazil's 1970 World Cup captain, has been appointed coach of Botafogo for the third time. He replaces **Mauro Fernandes**, sacked following the 2-1 defeat by Vasco da Gama in Brazil's national championship.

Three other coaches have moved on in Brazil since the start of the campaign in July: **Paulo Auturoi** (sacked by Internacional), **Walmir Louruz** (resigned at Juventude to replace Auturoi), **Marcio Araujo** (sacked by Parana).

Another Brazilian, **Ze Mario**, has lost his job at Kashima Antlers after the team lost three games in a row at the start of the J.League's second stage. His compatriot, **Zico**, the club's technical director, has taken over until the stage ends.

Former Denmark coach **Sepp Piontek** has become an adviser to the Greenland FA after rejecting an offer to lead Oman's national team.

TRANSFERS

		FROM	TO
Gabriele Ambrosetti	M	Vicenza	Chelsea
Arilson	M	Gremio	Valladolid (loan)
Constantin Barbu	F	Rapid Bucharest	Numancia
Luis Boa Morte	F	Arsenal	Southampton
Grant Brebner	M	Reading	Hibernian
Gary Charles	D	Benfica	West Ham
Christian Chivu	D	Universitatea Craiova	Ajax
Frederic Danjou	D	Auxerre	Oviedo
Kevin Davies	F	Blackburn	Southampton
Luigi Di Biagio	M	Roma	Internazionale
Efan Ekoku	F	Wimbledon	Grasshopper
Evanilson	D	Cruzeiro	Borussia Dortmund
Quinton Fortune	M	Atletico Madrid	Manchester United
Phil Gilchrist	D	Oxford United	Leicester
Danny Hay	D	Perth Glory	Leeds
Thomas Helmer	D	Sunderland	Hertha Berlin (loan)
Julio Cesar	D	Panathinaikos	Werder Bremen
John Karelse	G	NAC Breda	Newcastle
Robbie Keane	F	Wolves	Coventry
Bjorn-Tore Kvarme	D	Liverpool	Saint-Etienne
Miguel Angel Nadal	D	Barcelona	Mallorca
Mauricio Pellegrino	D	Barcelona	Valencia
Roger Garcia	M	Barcelona	Espanyol
Eric Roy	M	Marseille	Sunderland
Sigurd Rushfeldt	F	Rosenborg	Racing Santander
Helgi Sigurdsson	F	Stabaek	Panathinaikos
Trond Egil Soltvedt	M	Coventry	Southampton
Igor Stimac	D	Derby	West Ham
Massimo Taibi	G	Venezia	Manchester United
Cristiano Zanetti	M	Internazionale	Roma

INTERNATIONAL INS AND OUTS

Hasselbaink in Dutch recall

ATLETICO MADRID forward **Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink** was named in the Holland squad to face Denmark, the first time he has been included since France 98.

Five uncapped players joined Austria's squad for the friendly against Sweden – **Alex Manninger** (Arsenal), **Robert Ibertsberger** (Salzburg), **Jurgen Kauz** (Linz ASK), **Markus Weissenberger** (Arminia Bielefeld) and **Gerd Wimmer** (Rapid Wien).

France coach Roger Lemerre called up Bordeaux midfielder **Johan Micoud** and Paris Saint-Germain winger **Laurent Robert** to the squad for the friendly against Northern Ireland.

La Coruna defender **Cesar Martin** and Valencia midfielder **Francisco Farinos** were the new inclusions in the Spain squad for the friendly with Poland.

Portugal coach Humberto Coelho included Sporting Braga's 23-year-old keeper **Quim** in his squad for the friendly against Andorra.

Arminia Bielefeld defender **Jacky Peeters** was in the Belgium squad for the first time, as new coach Robert Waseige made his selection for the friendlies against Holland and Morocco.

Scotland coach Craig Brown named Hearts forward **Gary McSwegan** in his 27-man pool for the Bosnia and Estonia games.

Out-of-form Israeli forward **Ronen Harazi** was omitted from the squad to face Slovakia.

Aston Villa wing-back **Mark Delaney** was called up to the Wales squad for the first time for the Euro 2000 qualifier against Belarus.

Georgia coach Johan Boskamp called up three newcomers for his squad to face Slovenia and Latvia – goalkeeper **Grigol Chanturia** (Torpedo Kutaisi), and midfielders **David Dikhmelashvili** (FC Tbilisi) and **Tengiz Sichinava** (Dinamo Tbilisi).

Called up...Alex Manninger

OUT OF ACTION

Over the limit?

Polish First Division side Halex Olsztyn have banned goalkeeper **Jaroslaw Bako** for two years, claiming he was drunk during the 3-0 League defeat by Pogon. Bako denies the allegations.

Napoli's Russian international **Igor Shalimov** has been suspended by the Italian Football League after he tested positive for the banned anabolic steroid nandrolone.

Mallorca forward **Leo Biagini** looks likely to miss two months of the season after surgery on a groin injury.

Michael Ballack, the Bayer Leverkusen midfielder, is facing a 10-week lay-off after tearing a knee ligament.

Monaco forward **Japhet N'Doram** has quit after being told by doctors that his injured knee would never fully recover. The injury has sidelined the Chadian for two seasons.

FOOTBALL BUSINESS

● England-based leisure company **ENIC** has agreed a deal to take full control of Italian Serie B side **Vicenza**.

OBITUARY

● Former French national team manager **Georges Boulogne** has died at the age of 81. Boulogne led the side between 1969 and 1973.

Libero BOOKS

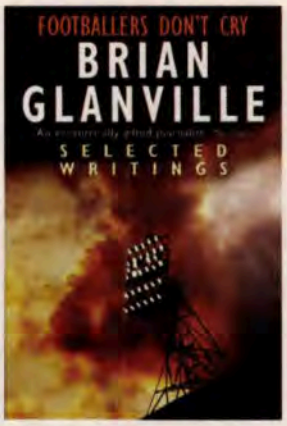
The monthly column rounding up the best (and worst) in football publishing

BOOK OF THE MONTH

FOOTBALLERS DON'T CRY

by Brian Glanville

(Virgin, £7.99)



This modest distillation of the author's enormous output over half a century is as good a work of reference as any. For those familiar with his efforts, it is a look back; for a new generation, an introduction.

It is a splendid evocation of the Glanville style, his ready turn of phrase, his ear for dialogue as spoken by real people, even, on occasions, his humour. And it is further proof (as if any were needed) of his passion for Italy and all things Italian.

The book culls from Glanville novels, historical books and short stories, newspaper and magazine articles, mostly to do with football but with some boxing and athletics too.

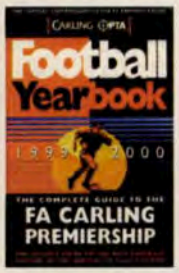
I welcome the inclusion of 'The Brothers', a mini masterpiece about two boxers, and the extract from *The Dying of the Light*, a football novel, with its gripper of an opening sentence: "My father has been dead for 20 years, but looks quite well." Who could fail to read on after being caught on that hook?

Above all, I was delighted to see again 'The Years of the Golden Fix', a long chapter about referee bribery from the book *Champions of Europe*, which showed that the Glanville of 30 years ago was a masterly investigative reporter as well as a columnist.

He takes a lot of stick, does Brian (some of it from occupants of this office), but sport in general, and soccer in particular will be the worse when he is not around to stir its conscience.

David Prole

World Soccer readers can obtain Footballers Don't Cry at a special price of £5.99 – post free in the UK – from the Football Book Club. For more details, see page 83.



CARLING OPTA FOOTBALL YEARBOOK 1999-2000

(Carlton, £16.99)

This is the latest addition to the growing legion of statistical yearbooks on the English game, and concentrates solely on last season's Premier League, using statistics and other figures from Carling OPTA, the "official player performance statisticians to the Premier League".

Carling OPTA's data is used by a number of clubs, referees and media organisations, as the book's introduction is a little too keen to point out. Here, the data is used to present a review of last season, first by club, then by individual players, and then to compare team and player performances.

There are enough nuggets of information to hold even the most fact-hungry fan's attention. But you're left wondering: what's the point?

We're told that Olivier Dacourt was Everton's best player last season with an "index score of 979", but so what? He's now back in France.

We're told that Steve McManaman made 94 "long passes" for Liverpool last season, but of those 94 passes one might be a goal-creating pass, and 93 might be straight to opposition defenders. We're not told.

The book's editors needed to explain in greater detail how the data is compiled. They say that a "specially-trained analyst watches a match on video", but what special training does that analyst receive?

At £16.99, there are too many gimmicks and not enough historical data, and overall the book represents no more than an interesting footnote to last season.

Gavin Hamilton

FOOTBALL CULTURES AND IDENTITIES

edited by Gary Armstrong and Richard Giulianotti

(Macmillan, £9.99)

This strange compilation is the work of 24 contributors plus the two editors, somewhat immodestly described on the cover as "Britain's leading scholars in the field" – the field being that unkempt meadow occupied by, to quote the cover again, "the forces of populist identities and nationalism provided by football". It's not aimed at the endlessly expanding mass market, that's for sure, not with chapter headings such as 'Team Selection and the Chosen People in Israel'.

But cheap shots are never cheaper to fire than when reviewing soccer books that rise even fractionally above the norm. This is a book for the serious student of soccer's history in 18 countries, its development, its place in society – and its future.

The writers and editors have done this because they love to do it and believe that they can be of service to others who feel the same way. The publishers, to their credit, have given the writers their collective heads.

Only a small percentage of soccer's global audience will start to read this book. Fewer still will get to the end of it. But you can only admire the research, determination and overall effort that has gone into it and its examination of the game.

David Prole

MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY

by Ruud Gullit

(Arrow, £6.99)

Anyone dipping into an autobiography can hardly be surprised if there is a lot about the author inside it, and Ruud Gullit has an interesting story to tell. But he has taken things to extremes. And how.

Just as with the hardback version of the same tale, photographs of Gullit are liberally splattered through the book. His first wife is barely mentioned. Ditto wife number two. Then the teenage Estelle is lauded to the skies.

Gullit played for Holland's Feyenoord and PSV plus Milan and Sampdoria in Italy before favouring England with his presence. He was a wonderful player, but his strictures about loyalty hit a bum note when compared with his club-hopping, wage-and-bonus-elevating, every-day-a-go-go lifestyle.

He deserved, and still deserves, to cash in on his skills, but he could be a bit more straightforward about that aspect of his career.

Gullit was fired from Chelsea, for reasons not made entirely clear, when the team were second in the League table, in the semi-finals of the League Cup and in the last eight of the Cup-winners Cup, having won the FA Cup less than a year before. Lack of success cannot possibly have been the reason for his dismissal. Perhaps Gullit had flown too high at Chelsea, too near the sun shining out of the chairman's office.

At Newcastle, Gullit disappointed himself and the legions of Geordie fans. It was not all his fault – but £32million spent on players, who take one point from five games, spells SACK in any language.

Why did Gullit rehash a book that first appeared less than two years ago, as if he needed the odd quid or two? If he had waited a wee while he could have brought it right up to date with his departure from the Toon. Perhaps he's saving that for Issue No. 3.

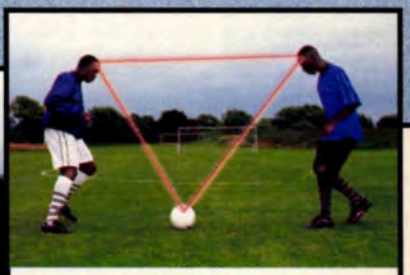
David Prole

Mental preparation is almost as important to onfield success as physical preparation. For instance, how do Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke communicate on the pitch? Answer: ESP.

Fig 1

Scientists find it difficult to understand ESP.

Fig 2



Full backs and defenders find it almost impossible.

Fig 3

YOUR 90 MINUTES START HERE

Fig 4

ESP allows Cole and Yorke to stay in contact with each other.
The all-weather traction and supple lightweight upper of the Air Zoom Match-FIT training shoe allows them to stay in contact with the ball.

Advanced ESP ensures that you bond with your team mate. Advanced Nike fabric technology ensures that you don't bond with your Jersey.

Fig 5

Fig 1

As Edgar Davids knows, running practice is essential for increasing your endurance over 90 minutes.

Fig 2

Watch as he leaves Turin.

Fig 3

As he crosses the Alps.

Fig 4

Note how he cleverly by-passes the French tolls.

Fig 5

By the time Edgar reaches Southern Belgium, he is beginning to feel the benefit of the lightweight cushioning of his Air Zoom Match-FIT training shoe.

Fig 6

He arrives just in time to join his Dutch team mates for another training session.

Predrag Mijatovic

'The best is yet to come'

Fiorentina's Yugoslav forward talks to Dominique Antognoni about his Italian challenge

WORLD SOCCER: Predrag, why go to Fiorentina?
Predrag Mijatovic: Why? That's simple. There were three very important reasons. Firstly, the warmth of the people there. Florence is a beautiful, stylish city, a place with so much to explore and enjoy, with passionate supporters – or so Christian Panucci has told me. The thing I liked best in Spain was playing in front of the crowds at Mestalla and Bernabeu. I live for football, so I identified with the crowds. The second reason I chose to go to Florence and to Fiorentina is Gabriel Batistuta. To play with him is the greatest thing – any forward would want to play alongside him, he's the greatest. The third reason is Trapattoni, a coach who's won everything. At Real, I felt that Fabio Capello understood me right away, and I do like the Italians' discipline.

How do you get on with Trapattoni?
Well, here's an example. I'd hardly signed with Fiorentina when I rang him to tell him how honoured I felt to work with a coach who has won the lot in the last 20 years. And I told him that when I was making up my mind it was his name that finally convinced me to come to Fiorentina. Also, I had been impressed by the fact that he remembered me from the time when I played for Partizan Belgrade, nine years ago. We had played Inter in the UEFA Cup in 1990-91, which was the year they won it, and Trap, who was their coach then, remembered me.

In what language did you and he speak?
In Spanish, which Trap speaks very well. Then we tried some Serb banter. He really is just what I expected – very motivating, but considerate. He immediately put me at ease, telling me to concentrate on doing the things I know best.

Apart from Fiorentina, were there any other teams after you?
Yes, Bayern, then Aston Villa.

You've been an idol for the Fiorentina fans since you scored the winner for Real in the Champions League Final against Juventus – there's a long-standing rivalry between the two sets of supporters.
Yes, so I've been told. And I tell the fans that I could become Juve's worst nightmare – that goal in Amsterdam certainly won't be the last.

What's your contract like?
I've signed for four years, the last four of my career. But I've got this crazy desire to keep on winning, the fans can be quite sure of that. I haven't had a bellyful yet – they've yet to see the best of Predrag.

And have you anything to say on the subject of Real?
I was very disappointed to be leaving Madrid, Real, Santiago Bernabeu. At the last home game, against Deportivo, the crowd carried on applauding me for quite a while after I went off, and that gave me goosebumps. The fans always stood by us, even when we lost, and they'd always come up and say: "It's nothing, don't worry". I'd also like to say thanks to President Sanz, who I got on with extremely well. He was good to me right to the end, did everything he could to keep me happy.

So why did you leave?
Toshack didn't want me there. And I wasn't happy either. He had ideas that meant nothing to me. Once he made me play in midfield. When things aren't going right, I just come out and say so, and that's why I wasn't too appreciated at Real. Now I'm off in search of other things to inspire and motivate me. Clarence Seedorf's been in the same position – Toshack doesn't appreciate him, and has advised him to look elsewhere; so, we'll see.

It's been said that you've tried to persuade Fernando Hierro to come with you to Fiorentina.
It's true. He had some interest from Juve – [Juve coach] Carlo Ancelotti really likes him – so I tried to get him to change his mind, should he ever leave Real.

So what do you think of Fiorentina after these first few weeks?
Exactly what I knew from the outset, that it's a very enthusiastic team, with a really sound set of players who very much want to go as far as possible in the Champions League and the Italian championship. With players like Batistuta, Rui Costa and Chiesa, it's more or less a duty to win.

Are you ambitious?
Sure, I'd never like to see the day when my abilities go to waste. I went to Madrid and won the title with Capello, then the Champions League.

Have you heard from Capello?
Yes, I called him before coming to Italy to sign my contract, to ask for advice. He told me to stay calm.

How would you describe yourself as a player?
I'm a born midfielder, but I've done my best work as an attacker.

You'll be taking Edmundo's position in the Fiorentina squad. How do you feel about that?
I know the problems there have been with him and I can promise you that, contrary to what has been

Winning goal...Mijatovic scores for Real Madrid in the 1998 Champions League Final against Juventus

Fact file

Club Fiorentina (Ita)
Country Yugoslavia
Born January 19, 1969, in Podgorica, Yugoslavia
Previous clubs Partizan Belgrade, Valencia (Spa), Real Madrid (Spa)
International caps 40 (18 goals)
Honours Yugoslavian League 1993; Spanish League 1997; Champions League 1998; Spanish Footballer of the Year 1996

said of Edmundo, I am 100 per cent professional off the pitch as well as on.

There'll be a bit of competition among the attacking players.
It's really useful to have competition between attackers – I give a little bit more in such situations. But it makes everyone play better if you really go for it every day and you have to battle for your place in the team.

Those words will make President Cecchi Gori happy.
I've seen lots of matches on TV and I've often seen the president on his feet, urging the players to attack. That's the sort of boss I like. He wants to win the *scudetto* and so do I – we can win it.

And Vieri-Ronaldo – are they going to be the strongest strikeforce?
I know both of them – I've played against them in Spain. They were born to score goals. But listen, first we'll have to see whether they actually work well together. I'm tempted to say that Juventus have the strongest attack, and now they've got Kovacevic, too. He was the right choice.

Predrag, you're 30 and you've been playing for more than 10 years. What has been the best moment?
Definitely our return from Amsterdam after winning the Champions League. The whole of Madrid came to meet us, and people from other cities, too. It was fantastic.

You've won everything in your career.
No, no. I've not won the Golden Ball. I've got a bit of a thing about it, actually. I must win it at all costs. And then my aim in life is to win – always, in whatever way, and above all else.

Jari Litmanen

'Favourites don't always win'

Barcelona's new Finnish signing talks to Ferran Correas

WORLD SOCCER: You were wanted by many European clubs. Why opt for Barcelona?
JARI LITMANEN: After seven years at Ajax, I decided to leave the club for a stronger championship. I had offers from England, Spain and Italy. But I plumped for Barcelona because of their greatness. It's a club with a phenomenal stadium, they have great support, fantastic players and always aim for top honours. Here I have everything I could ask for.

Have you noticed any differences between the Louis Van Gaal you knew at Ajax and the coach you have just rejoined at Barcelona ?
The truth is that I have noticed a slightly different Van Gaal. It's logical. Ajax and Barcelona are two very different clubs. Here he is dealing with different players, he's working in another country and there's a lot more pressure on him. In Barcelona, football is much more important to the people. What I can say about Van Gaal is that I was with him for six marvellous years at Ajax and I hope to spend four more at Barcelona.

Besides Van Gaal, many of your former Ajax team-mates are also with Barça. Will this help you?
It's always helpful to see familiar faces when you move to a new club. I can speak Dutch with the boys who used to be my team-mates at Ajax, while with the other Barcelona players I speak English. I already speak a little Spanish and can understand a great deal. But it is very important to me that I integrate myself at the club and in the city. The sooner, the better. To do this, I want to speak good Spanish very quickly and hope to do so in a couple of months.

What do you make of the many Dutch players at Barcelona ?
They are all players of great quality, which is a good thing.

It must be to your advantage that you have much experience of Van Gaal's way of playing.
The truth is that the formation Van Gaal uses at Barcelona is not the same as the one he had at Ajax. What's more, the principal difference between the two is that my position has disappeared. Because of this, I've had to work very hard during pre-season to adapt to a new system, to a new set of movements.

You must be aware that competition for places in midfield is going to be very tough.
Of course, and I know men like Luis Enrique and Cocu start with a certain advantage over me. Both are coming off great seasons and, furthermore, know the playing system here. I know this is a club with many excellent players, and places in the starting line-up don't come cheap. But I didn't come here to be a reserve and will fight to always be among those the coach picks for the first team.

Can you benefit from the good understanding you have with Patrick Kluivert?
Patrick and I have played many games together and it's always worked well. Both of us have scored lots of goals thanks to passes from the other. I hope we can combine to score many for Barça.

How do you rate Barcelona's chances in the Champions League?
We are one of the favourites. However, I also know it will be tremendously difficult. Favourites don't always win. For instance, when I won the Cup with Ajax in 1995, no one would have bet on us. Luck also plays a part. A bad draw can complicate matters. Barça were knocked out at the first round stage last season by the two teams who went on to reach the Final.

Is this Barcelona side better than the Ajax team that won the Champions League in 1995?
It's difficult to compare the two teams. They don't play the same system. What I will say is that the Ajax side was a great one and Barcelona now are another.

Frank De Boer said recently that the current Barcelona team has more quality than the Ajax of four years ago. What do you think?
Perhaps so. For the reason that the coach here has more top-level players to choose from.

© ESM

Lothar Matthaus

'Bayern belong with the best'

The German veteran tells Rainer Holzschuh how his club are stronger than ever

WORLD SOCCER: You are moving to America at the winter break to play for the NY/NJ MetroStars. Do you have anything to play for in only a half-season for Bayern?
LOTHAR MATTHAUS: I have everything to play for. After 20 years of top European football and many positive achievements, I'm very keen for a good ending. It's very important to me that I help Bayern make progress in the Champions League and that we get off to a solid start in the defence of our Bundesliga title. I'm looking at the Euro 2000 finals as the final big goal of my career and can't afford to allow my performances to go downhill.

Last season, Bayern lost the Champions League and German Cup Finals, but dominated the Bundesliga. How do you assess the 98-99 campaign as a whole?
Defeat in those two finals was undeserved. We controlled both games, but lost the first in a crazy spell at the end and lost the second on penalties. Those results should not detract from a season in which Bayern performed so well. We took the Bundesliga shield by a large margin, established ourselves once more among Europe's best and played some great football. It's a good record by anyone's standards.

You have lost two Champions Cup Finals [1987 v FC Porto and 1999 v Man United] and you will never have another opportunity to win it. Do you think you were fated not to end up on the winning side in this competition?
After what happened against United, it certainly seems that way. We were the best team but the gods thought otherwise. It's hard to accept, but there's no changing history.

Are Bayern a stronger proposition this season?
I think so. The vast majority of the squad is still here and our team play is only going to improve. Because of the bitter disappointment of Barcelona, I expect everybody to be doubly motivated to bounce back, and we have brought in even more top players. Patrik Andersson has been one of the best central defenders in the Bundesliga for years; Paulo Sergio is a quick and clever midfielder and knows German football well after playing for Leverkusen; young Roque Santa Cruz is already a good attacker but in two or three years he will be priceless.

Can Bayern challenge again in the Champions League?
Why not? You can't say Bayern will win it. Such a successful outcome can't be programmed. But we're developing well and can now compete with the best. For me, Bayern belong up there with the best in Europe: Manchester United, Barcelona, Real Madrid, Milan and Lazio.

Stefan Effenberg has been appointed club captain. What's your opinion of him?
It's not a secret that some at Bayern were not convinced he was the right man for us when he arrived from Gladbach last year. But from the very beginning I was one of the few who energetically supported him. He was outstanding all season. He's a winner, a great all-round midfielder and brings spirit and leadership to the team.

You have just been voted German Player of the Year, while Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, national coach Erich Ribbeck and many other respected figures in the game have covered you with praise for recent performances. How does it feel to be so popular?
Naturally, I'm absolutely delighted. It's good to think I'm still appreciated after all these years, especially by my club and *Nationalmannschaft* coaches. Every move I make is put under the microscope and sometimes it seems as if some people are just waiting for me to make a mistake. Such good opinions of my play are the perfect reply to the critics.

Ottmar Hitzfeld is widely acknowledged as the architect of the club's success. Is this the case?
Absolutely. He's a top-class coach. He has much authority, is tactically very astute and the way he rotated first-team players last season was exemplary. He's also a good man-manager. When he leaves someone out of the team, he always speaks to them face-to-face to explain why. That way, no one can have any complaints.

Which other factors give Bayern their edge?
Everyone on the pitch has their specific duties and carries them out to the maximum, and tactically we're very flexible. We can play with three or four at the back, two or three in attack and are able to switch easily from one formation to another whether we're in possession or defending. A top club has to be able to play more and more different systems.

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Nicolas Anelka

'What's all the fuss about?'

Real Madrid's record signing talks to Arnaud Ramsay

WORLD SOCCER: How are you adapting to life at a club where a thousand people turn up to watch the training sessions – unlike Arsenal, where you trained behind closed doors?
NICOLAS ANELKA: Very well, though I don't like crowds very much. When I arrived at the airport, it nearly got out of hand. I was expecting a big welcome, but nothing like that.

Which of your team-mates do you feel closest to?
Karembeu is helping me settle in, and I also like Seedorf a lot. I hope he stays as we have a good understanding on the pitch and we can communicate in English.

How are you learning to live with the burden of being the most expensive player in Spanish football?
Obviously there is pressure as people are going to be thinking about the fee, which is a shame. If I could have come here for nothing, I would have. It's not my fault I cost so much. The club president decided to spend the money. All I can do is give my best, as usual, and keep as physically fit as possible.

Did you ever consider Barcelona?
I admired Barcelona but they had a full squad, and once I knew Real were interested my mind was made up.

Have you already put Arsenal behind you?
I left England with no regrets. I gave my best there for two years and no one can say different, except, perhaps, David Dein. I felt it was necessary for me to leave. I know I was under contract until 2003, but lots of players do the same. We have become commodities, and today, contracts don't have great value. Look at Vieri – three clubs in three years, and nobody says anything. But when it's me, it becomes a problem. I truly don't understand. I don't go looking for trouble and I've done nothing wrong. I just said I wanted to leave. Dein bought me for £500,000, he's sold me for 44 times that, so he's made a huge profit. And he still tried to block things. This man only thinks about money.

Have you spoken to your friend Thierry Henry since he joined Arsenal?
Not yet, but I'm going to give him some tips on how things work there. He hasn't made a mistake in signing for them, and nor did I. I'm very happy in what I achieved in my two years – Arsenal gave me the opportunity to progress to a higher level.

So why move to La Liga?
Because before I even went to Arsenal, I knew I only wanted to stay for two years. If I had stayed any longer, it would have been against my will. I've always preferred the Spanish League and always planned to play here, and I decided this would be the season. Now I'm at Real and it feels good.

Had your relationship with Wenger deteriorated by the time you left Arsenal?
No, I've never said anything bad about him. I'm only sorry he criticised the people around me, saying they wanted me to leave for financial reasons while I wanted to stay. That wasn't true. If I was attracted by money, I would have gone to Juventus. They made a massive offer to sign me – £30million. I'm not obsessed by money. Of course I earn more here than at Arsenal, but I don't fix the wage levels. And it wasn't my fault the whole episode dragged on for two months. Real's offer didn't change. Dein was desperate for Juve's money, and that's why he prolonged things.

Is your irritation focused on Dein?
He's someone who says one thing to your face and another to the media. When I told him face to face that I wanted to leave, he told him he would do everything to make it happen and wished me all the best. Then he carried on negotiating with Juve after I'd already told him I didn't want to go there.

'Players have become commodities – contracts don't have great value today'

The Italian media claim it's really Juve who own you, having loaned you to Real for a year before swapping you for Zidane next year. Are you aware of this rumour?
I've heard rumours but nothing more concrete. That's a matter between club presidents. Anyway, it's a load of rubbish. I'm not interested in Juve, especially considering it was them who got in the way of my move to Lazio by making a bigger offer.

Would you have joined Lazio?
Yes, because Real were out of the running at the time. I had no club to go to.

David Dein has warned Real that you have temperamental problems and that you will do to them what you did to Arsenal in a couple of years, despite your seven-year contract.
Dein has made a lot of money out of me and is stupid to say that. Of course I got wound up at times when we lost games, but I've never changed my character. I bust a gut at Arsenal and gave all I had. If he says any different, he's a hypocrite.

Whenever we hear your name, we think of your entourage. Did the criticisms of your brothers and [agent] Marc Roger upset you?
The criticism was based on jealousy, from people who would have liked to have been in their position and who would have behaved in the same way if they had been. My brothers look after me, both as brothers and as managers. They must know what they're doing because I've joined Real, where I wanted to go. I look after my family and the people who are close to me.

Do you read what people say about you?
No, it's tiresome – even when it's nice things. I know I'm in a high-profile position, but it wears me out. Frankly, I don't want to be a star. It's annoying. I can't even walk the streets in peace.

Christian Karembeu has said you will have to learn to deal with the Spanish media, which is very intense.
No problem. The English media criticised me before I even arrived at Arsenal. Even after I played well they criticised me. I didn't know if it was jealousy because I was young, or because I had taken Ian Wright's place, or something. They said I didn't smile on the pitch. Neither does Bergkamp, and nobody says anything about him. They were always looking for a way of doing me down, such as suggesting I didn't like London because I went home to my family for the odd weekend. What was I meant to do? I scored 17 goals in my first season as a regular choice and was voted best young player in the League. What more did they want? I've had journalists paying little kids in my neighbourhood to tell them where I live. Is that right? I don't like talking, and I don't like giving interviews. In Spain I will talk more than in England, but I'm not going to overdo it.

How did you cope with the transfer saga?
Very well. I wasn't stressed out, I just had a good time with my friends and a holiday in Martinique. I took the phone off the hook, and the only people I was in touch with were my brothers. That's how

Fact file

Club Real Madrid (Spa)
Country France
Born March 14, 1979, in Versailles
Previous clubs PSG, Arsenal (Eng)
International debut April 1998, v Sweden
International caps 9 (3 gls)
Honours English League 1998; English FA Cup 1998

I am. If it all works out, fine. If not, it's too bad. That's life. God guides what we do in life. I just went running and messed about with a ball with my friends.

Did your faith help you?
Yes. I am interested in Islam. God guides all our lives. If he wanted me to find a club, good. If he wills that I score goals for Real, that's good too. If I don't, then I fail. That's all there is to it.

Didn't you get sick of the daily Anelka soap opera?
It would be better described as the David Dein soap opera. It was he who dragged it out when it should have been sorted out in three days. The problem was he didn't want to talk to Real, only to Juve. He is really stupid. He forgets that I was under contract when he got me from PSG. He did the same thing that Real have done, but he won't accept that.

A Spanish paper has called you 'the timid rebel'. Is that an accurate description?
Why a rebel? I'm not a rebel just because I've moved from one club to another.

And timid?
Yes, I am timid. What I like is playing football, not talking. It's not my fault the media are interested in me. I'd love to be unknown. It wouldn't prevent me from playing football.

Is it true that Zidane rang you to try to talk you into joining Juventus?
Not exactly. What happened was Thierry Henry rang me, then put Zidane on the phone. We chatted a bit, but he never told me to come to Turin. Zidane is a superb player, and I get on well with him, on and off the pitch. He's like me, he doesn't say a lot. And if, as has been rumoured, he came to Real next season, that would be brilliant.

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Zvonimir Boban

Superstar and political symbol

Zdravko Reic on Milan and Croatia's number 10

ZVONIMIR BOBAN, Croatian national team captain, is not only the best player to come from that country for 25 years, according to a poll in a national daily newspaper. He is also his country's most popular player, and already being tipped – though only 30 – to become sports minister.

Boban attained his hero status 10 years ago, before a match between his club, Dinamo Zagreb, and Red Star Belgrade. Some Red Star fans followed the lead given by Zeljko Raznatovic – the revolutionary known as Arkan and now wanted as a war criminal – and tried to set fire to the stands. Dinamo's hard core of supporters, Bad Blue Boys, took action to stop them.

In the confusion, a policeman attacked a small boy, until Boban intervened and knocked him down. As a result, the authorities banned Boban from playing for Yugoslavia and so ended his hopes of appearing at Italia 90.

He was nevertheless adopted as a symbol of Croatia's struggle for independence, even though he also moved abroad to play for Bari and now Milan.

Boban has enjoyed great success in Italy, winning four championships, two Italian Supercups, the European Supercup, and – most important of all – the Champions Cup in 1994, with Milan.

He also has made 50 appearances for Croatia's national side, scoring 12 goals, to supplement his three caps (one goal) with Yugoslavia.

Recently he visited Belgrade for the first time in eight years, planning to watch the Euro 2000 qualifier between Yugoslavia and Croatia since he was injured. He was deeply upset to see the consequences of the NATO bombing. "Everything that happened was because of Slobodan Milosevic's perverted politics," he said.

Boban's injury had led Milan to give him leave to spend a five-day holiday on the island of Brac. "After that I felt so much better that I knew I should play in the game," he said. "It was too important, too symbolic, for me not to do so. After all, I'm the captain."

So Boban did play, in a goalless draw, and then again four days later, against Malta in Zagreb, to win his 50th cap.

Unfortunately an old stomach injury recurred and as a result he was refused permission even to walk for 15 days. It was thought likely that he would miss the start of Milan's Champions League campaign.

Boban has played in the competition in four previous seasons, and was in the Milan side that demolished Barcelona 4-0 in the 1994 Final.

He believes Milan will again have a big say. "One season without any European play, and another without being in the Champions League, motivated the players and the rest of the club to come back and win the championship title, thus qualifying us for a return to Europe," he said. "Our group does not look too tough, and we have two excellent new players in Shevchenko and Serginho.

"I think I'll play a maximum of around 30 games in the season – because of problems with my spine."

Boban has signed a new contract up to summer 2001. After that, he might possibly say goodbye to the game, although he is still a young man. There are other things that he might do...

Tony Adams

'Ready and willing'

Arsenal's captain talks to Kevin Connolly

TONY ADAMS limped out of last season's Champions League at half-time of Arsenal's 1-0 Wembley defeat by Lens, victim of a persistent ankle injury. This season, the club captain aims to lead his team much further down the road to Champions League glory.

In 1994, Adams lifted the Cup-winners Cup after Arsenal's dramatic victory over Parma. The following season, they reached the Final again, only to lose to Zaragoza and 'Nayim from the halfway line' in the last minute of extra time.

As Adams freely admits, Arsenal have not done themselves justice in Europe since. In 1996-97, they slid out of the UEFA Cup to Borussia Monchengladbach in the first round. They slipped up at the same stage in their Double season, to unfancied Greek club PAOK Salonika. Last season, defeats by Kyiv Dynamo and Lens ended their hopes with a match to spare of the group stage.

The draw this time round looks even less promising. The Gunners must get through the toughest of all the eight qualifying sections, having been drawn in Group B with Fiorentina, Barcelona and AIK Stockholm.

Yet Adams relishes the challenge and believes Arsenal are better equipped to handle the task than they have been for years.

"The draw is tough, but exciting – beautiful cities, great stadiums, terrific atmosphere," he says. "Our first target is to make sure we're still in contention at the end of September. We mustn't leave ourselves too much to pull back. The opening game, in Florence on September 14, will be crucial."

Fiorentina coach Giovanni Trapattoni reckons that contest will be "a clash between two exciting attacks". It's a tempting thought. Fiorentina have spent more than £16million on Enrico Chiesa, from Parma, and Predrag Mijatovic from Real Madrid, to support top scorer Gabriel Batistuta.

Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger, meanwhile, signed Mijatovic's old Bernabeu colleague Davor Suker for £3million – after Nicolas Anelka went in the opposite direction – then snapped up Thierry Henry from Juventus for a club record £11m.

Florence, Barcelona and Stockholm are all within two days boat and train/drive time from London, so Arsenal hope the non-flying Dennis Bergkamp will play all three away games – unlike last season, when he ruled himself out of the matches in Kyiv and Athens.

After 16 years around Arsenal's first team, Adams – 33 in October – knows that such matches rarely turn on romantic dreams. What boosts his confidence is the way Wenger has built up Arsenal's squad strength.

Now that ex-Ajax striker Nwankwo Kanu has proved himself, Wenger can call on attacking options he never had last season.

The defining moment of Arsenal's 1998-99 Champions League campaign came in the closing minutes against Dynamo at Wembley. The Gunners led 1-0 through Bergkamp's rare header. Marc Overmars broke clear, rounded goalkeeper Olexander Shovkovskyi and rolled the ball towards the empty net. From nowhere, right-back Oleh Luzhnyi appeared and hacked it off the line. Had that gone in, Arsenal surely would have advanced to the knockout stage. Instead, Serhii Rebrov equalised, Dynamo beat the weakened Gunners 3-1 in Kyiv and suddenly Arsenal were struggling.

"The thin line between success and failure," muses Adams. Ironically, 'Horse' Luzhnyi was Wenger's first close-season signing.

The coach also has recruited Brazilian left-back Silvinho from Corinthians of Sao Paulo, and German midfielder Stefan Malz from 1860 Munich.

Silvinho and the Argentinian Nelson Vivas – signed from Boca Juniors last summer – could be key squad players. They are both known as full-backs, but last season Vivas looked most comfortable on the right of midfield and Silvinho can do the same on the left. Both prefer going forward to sitting tight.

"We couldn't expect too much too soon," says Adams. "It takes new players a while to settle down, especially if they don't speak much English. Now they've had a few weeks to fit in, I hope September will be their month."

Adams expects to be more tuned in than he was this time last year. "Then, I was carrying too many injuries," he says. "Now I feel the fittest I've been in ages. I'm delighted that I don't feel any pain from the back now. I'm still recovering from the hernia op, but that's improving every day."

His biggest wish, though, is for Arsenal to carry the lessons of last season into Group B 1999. As he says, the task then was easier than it is now, even though the eventual group winners, Kyiv, proved their ability by reaching the semi-finals.

Adams believes that Arsenal had only themselves to blame. "We had enough chances to have buried Lens at their ground in our opening game," he says. "Kyiv played very well at Wembley but we could have beaten them if we'd put away our opportunities. Hopefully we'll never be as weakened again as we were when we played the second leg in Kyiv."

Claudio Reyna

'I was just a kid who loved playing soccer'

Paul Gardner talks to Rangers' dynamic American midfielder

FOURTEEN years ago a lively team of 12-year-olds used to play the curtain raisers before Long Island University took the field down in deepest Brooklyn.

Union County were a joy to watch. The centre forward, I thought, would go places (he didn't). Number 10 looked a likely lad, too – Claudio, the son of coach Miguel Reyna.

Claudio seemed smaller than the others. An illusion caused by his strangely intense, almost hunched way of running. But there was no mistaking his cleverness with the ball.

I was to see a lot more of Claudio Reyna – at St Benedict's High School in Newark, New Jersey, where he stepped into the shoes of the school's former star, Tab Ramos; and at the University of Virginia, where the University won the national championship in all three of his years.

By 1989 Reyna was playing for the USA in the Under-17 World Cup. I recall one sunny afternoon when I ran into Claudio and his parents, and we stood chatting in an Edinburgh street. Ten years later, Reyna is back in Scotland, not as an unknown 16-year-old, but as an established star.

This is the story of a soccer-crazy kid who grew up in a non-soccer country. Claudio would thump a ball against the house in Springfield, New Jersey, until it got on his mother's nerves and she told him to knock it off. Then he would switch to juggling.

There's soccer in the family. Father Miguel grew up in Buenos Aires and played in the junior division of top club Independiente. JJ Lopez, a legendary figure in Argentine soccer, is a second cousin.

In 1992, Reyna was in Spain as the youngest member of the USA Olympic team. Out of the blue came an offer from Barcelona. Incredibly, Reyna turned it down. He continued at the University of Virginia until 1993, and the following year, aged 21, signed for Bayer Leverkusen. He didn't get much playing time, and in 1997 he was loaned to Wolfsburg. He has been a member of the US national team since 1994.

And so to Rangers. Miguel goes to the Scottish Club in Kearney to watch his son's games surrounded by Rangers fans. He made a mistake recently. Leaving work early to go straight to the club for the Parma game, he borrowed a clean shirt. At the club he thought he was getting odd stares. A friend took him aside and told him: "Miguel, green is not the colour for you."

Claudio added more soccer expertise to the family when he married former women's national team player Danielle Egan in July 1997. Son Jack was born in April this year – the family now has a house in Newton Mearns, outside Glasgow. Danielle and Claudio love life in Scotland, though they admit that they have yet to sample haggis.

WORLD SOCCER: Did you have any dreams of soccer fame as a boy?
CLAUDIO REYNA: I really don't remember any. In the USA then, you didn't have much access to televised games, you couldn't get to know the top teams. I was just a kid who loved playing soccer.

Your father must have been pretty influential in your development?
He started me off, but he's never pressured me to make it a career. His main thoughts were just to get me a scholarship to go to a good university. He put in so much, driving me all over for tournaments and try-outs. He was never too tired to practise with me, even after working hard all week. He did it all in the right manner, never burned me out. He's not a critic, he's turned into more of a fan.

You turned down Barcelona in 1992 – was that your own decision?
Yes, it was. I'd just turned 19, and I was flattered. They would have had me travelling pre-season with the A team, then I'd have spent the season with the B team. My gut instinct was that I wanted to stay in college longer. I'm glad I did.

You had five years in the Bundesliga – but had to get used to the bench at Leverkusen.
I spent the first year and a half learning to be a pro. After that I thought I did quite well. At Leverkusen I didn't play because of the foreigners rule, but I also feel that it had to do with being an American, at that time, at a big club. They were a bit ignorant and arrogant, not believing that a good soccer player could come from America – if I'd been just the same player, but from Brazil, they'd have given me a chance. Now the USA has beaten Germany twice, and they realise good players come from any corner of the world. In my first year at Wolfsburg I played 32 games, and we avoided relegation. After the 1998 World Cup I didn't play well. By 1999 I'd recovered, I thought, but the coach had made his decisions, and it was time to move on.

The move to Rangers – that happened rather suddenly?
Yes – all in about 10 days. I'd been talking with my agent about plans for next season, when Rangers came in. They'd had some injuries and they wanted me immediately.

With Rangers you're virtually guaranteed European football every year...
That was very important – other players are here for that reason too. I'd always known about the club and the Rangers-Celtic rivalry – there's a lot of Scottish influence in New Jersey soccer. I knew it was a big club – I didn't realise how big until I got here.

And you've had immediate success.
This is the closest team I've ever been on, without a doubt; we all get on with each other. I've made friends quickly – Giovanni Van Bronckhorst, Sergio Porrini, Michael Mols – he's my next-door neighbour – Tony Vidmar. And the wives all get along too.

And on the field? You described yourself once as a playmaker – is that true now?
No – it's different here, we have no playmaker. Everyone can score and everyone has to defend, we move as a team. It's a passing-oriented team, we like to attack – [coach Dick] Advocaat tells us to play football, to figure out situations. We play with the ball on the ground as much as possible.

'This is the closest team I have ever been on, we all get on with each other'

You weren't so attack-minded in the second leg against Parma.
Parma was the toughest team we could have got. We proved we were better – especially at home – then finished it in Parma. Yes, we played a tactically defensive game, I had to play a bit more defensively, we were more compact as a team and took very few risks.

Suddenly you're a goalscorer – is that a surprise?
I've been trying more to get into scoring positions.

Fact file

Club Rangers (Sco)
Country United States
Born July 20, 1973, in New Jersey
Previous clubs University of Virginia, Bayer Leverkusen (Ger), Wolfsburg (Ger)
International debut April 1994, v Moldova
International caps 64 (7 gls)

We play with a holding midfielder, Barry Ferguson, Giovanni's on the left, and I'm on the right, with freedom to tuck in and go forward. I cover a lot of ground, defending and getting forward. I've got used to it, but if Bruce Arena wants me more forward with the national team, that's fine.

How's your left foot? And heading and tackling and all the skills?
I use my left foot to run on – and to pass and occasionally for long balls and shooting. Heading is not the strongest part of my game. On long balls off goal kicks I can do quite well, but in the box, winning corners or crosses, I don't take any part in that. I'm more likely to be taking the corner kick. My tackling has improved, I win my share of balls.

Which players do you admire?
There's Juan Veron and Zinedine Zidane – they're fun to watch, players you'd pay to see, on the ball they do things with style, they're something special. And Javier Zanetti, for me he's just a complete player, he can play so many different positions. I like Rivaldo, he's the best in the world, he's basically looking to score every time he has the ball. Figo's a fantastic player too.

Has success at Rangers surprised you?
I'm very happy, but I've learned not to go to extremes, not to get too excited when things go well and not to get too down when things are bad. Right now it's fun and I'm enjoying it.

How do you pass your spare time?
I don't go out much, I'm a family person. My wife and baby keep everything in perspective.

Any thoughts about the future?
I don't know if I'd want to jump straight from playing to coaching. I haven't given any thought to taking a coaching licence now but I do make notes – I have a little book where I write down things that coaches do that I like.

Before the World Cup you made a prediction in the June 1998 issue of *World Soccer*: "It'll be France. They'll beat Brazil in the Final." The bookies would love to hear your Champions League prediction...
Oh, it's much more difficult in club competitions, there are many more teams that can win. In the World Cup it's only three or four. Rangers? First, we have to qualify from our group. Then we'll see.

Gianfranco Zola

'Show us how!'

Euro veterans will help Chelsea to succeed, Zola tells Chris Hatherall

GIANFRANCO ZOLA has a nagging feeling that there has been something missing from his career.

He is a hero in Italy and in England, has played 35 times for his country, experienced major championships and won major trophies – the Serie A with Napoli, the UEFA Cup with Parma, the FA Cup, the League Cup and the Cup-winners Cup with Chelsea – but he has never played in the Champions League. Until now.

"I have had a good career and I have got a few trophies," he said. "But there is always something missing in your career and if you really want to keep playing at the top level there is always something else you want to win.

"For me it is the Champions League. That would be great, especially considering that I am 33. Just to play in it would be very, very good. But to play against Milan with Chelsea – that is a dream!

"It will not be easy for us because we are in a difficult group against Milan, Hertha Berlin and Galatasaray. But I am looking forward to it a lot."

Zola has an extra reason for wanting to shine in the Champions League – to wipe out painful memories of his one and only appearance in the old European Cup format eight years ago.

"I only played once in the European Cup, at Napoli after we had won Serie A in 1990. But we didn't go far. We were beaten in the second round by Moscow Spartak in Russia.

"We lost on penalties but I had been taken off before then and so I could not do anything to stop us from going out. Ever since then I have wanted to play in the competition again."

Zola has no worries that Chelsea could be embarrassed in their first Champions League campaign.

"Last year we were only four points behind Manchester United in the Premiership, and they won the Champions League," said Zola. "So considering we played against them four times and didn't do badly, with three draws and one defeat, that puts us in a position to say 'Yes, we can compete with all the other teams in Europe'.

"At the moment the Premiership is one of the major leagues in the world, and Chelsea are one of the best teams in the Premier League, so that must mean we are one of the best teams in the world.

"Also it is a big help having players who have won the trophy before. They can help the others. We rely a lot on players like Didier Deschamps, Marcel Desailly and Albert Ferrer, who have played in this sort of competition for such a long time. And Luca Vialli has played in it before as well.

"We are going to be asking them to show us and tell us what it is like. It is going to be very important talking to them and watching them play. They can lead by example."

Zola, however, admits it will be tough for Chelsea to go all the way in their first appearance.

"Manchester United did something fantastic last season, because not many teams win their home title and the Champions League in the same year. I have to say it is going to be very difficult for Chelsea to do that. For many reasons, not just physically but also mentally, because we have so many games to play.

"The Premiership title is what we really want this season. That would be something very special for Chelsea, who have only won the top division once, before I was born.

"But we also want to go as far as we can in the Champions League, of course, and it is still exciting to think about facing big teams and big players where you can test your strength against the best. At my age it may be my last chance.

"I have a contract until 2002 at Chelsea and I want to honour that. Then I will be 36 and who knows if anyone will want me then? That is why I want to make the most of it now."

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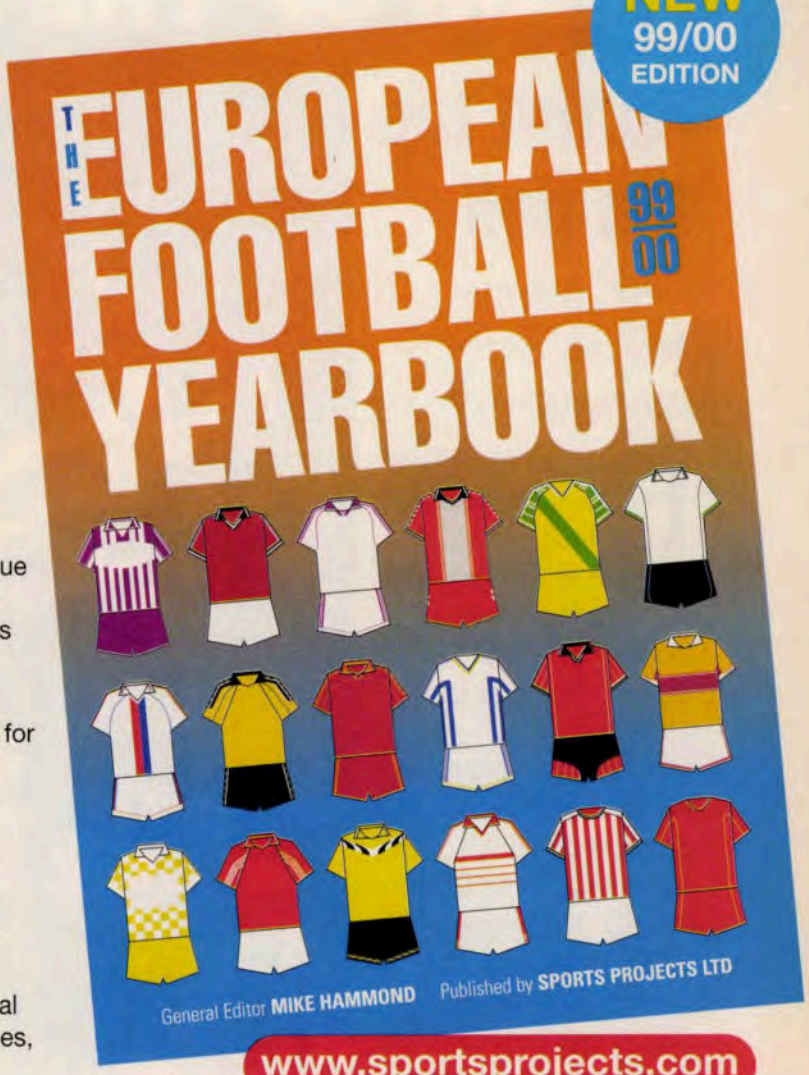

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CNN WORLD SOCCER

TEAM OF THE MONTH

United top the poll

Ferguson's men lead the way in our exclusive poll

European champions Manchester United continue to top the voting in the exclusive CNN/*World Soccer* monthly poll to find the best club side in the world.

United were the clear winners last month, ahead of Barcelona, with Boca Juniors and Lazio tying for third place.

The weekly vote by journalists at *World Soccer* and CNN can be seen on CNN's daily half-hour programme *World Sport* every Monday night and Tuesday morning.

CNN/WORLD SOCCER TOP 10 STANDINGS

1	Manchester United 297 pts
2	Barcelona 167
3=	Boca Juniors 133
3=	Lazio 133
5	Real Madrid 117
6	Bayern Munich 99
7	Rangers 87
8	Milan 77
9	Internazionale 67
10	Palmeiras 59

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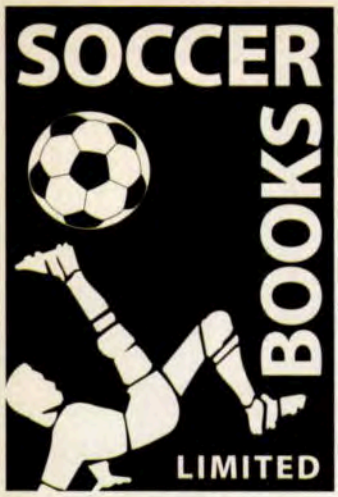

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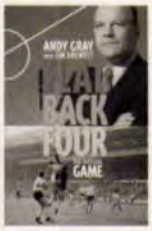

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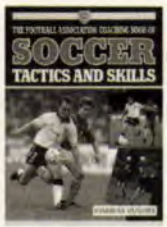

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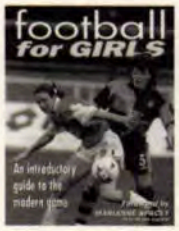

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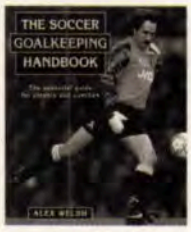

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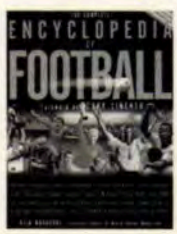

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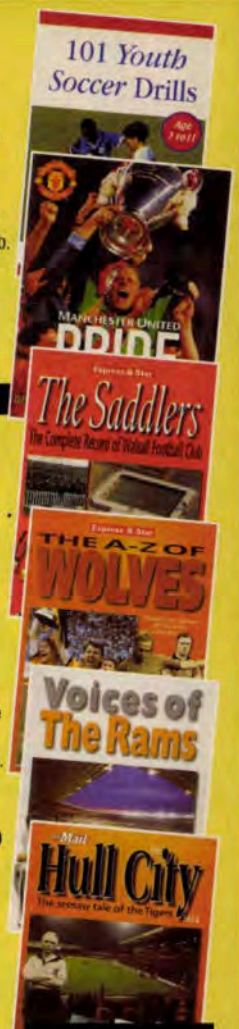

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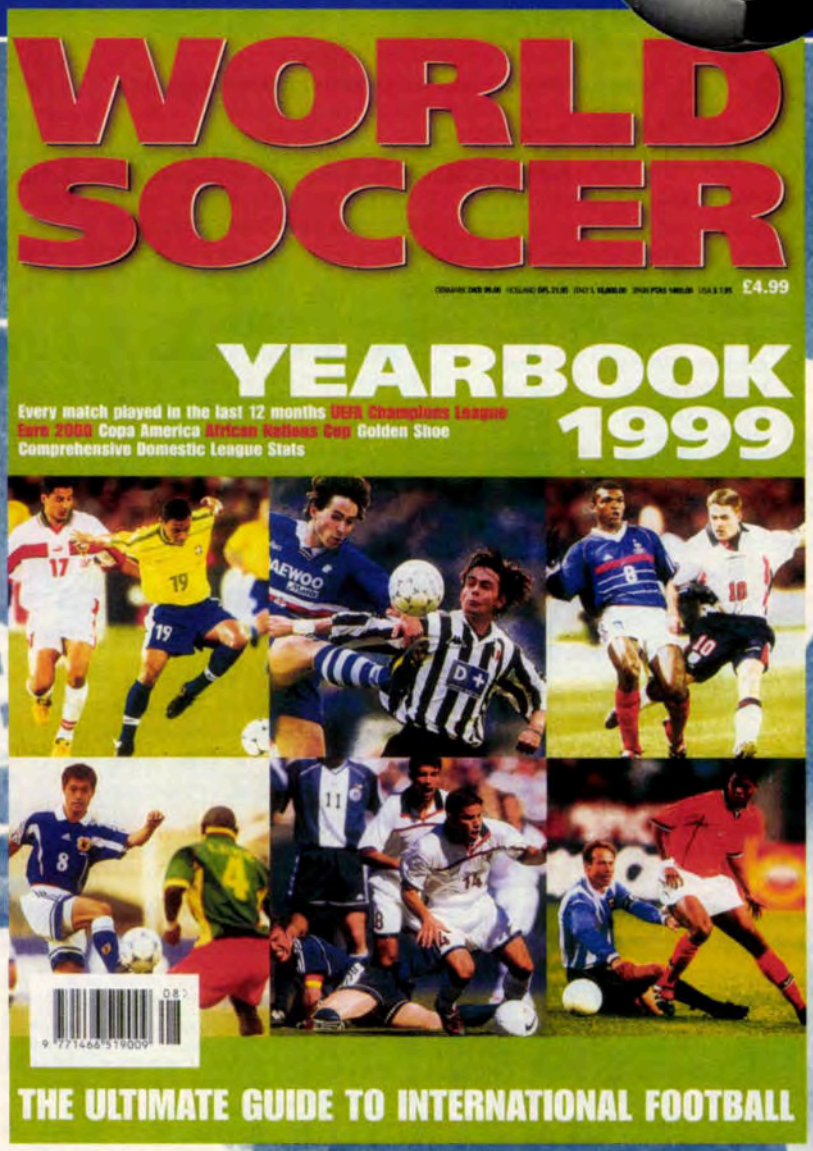

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football365.com	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
nando.net	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
fifa.com	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
uefa.com	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
football.sports.com	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
CNN/Si.com	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
others (please specify)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
dailysoccer.com	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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Reader survey (continued)

5 Please put in order of preference (1-10) which soccer information you take off the net

- your club news ☐
- other club news ☐
- match reports ☐
- match results/line-ups ☐
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- match previews ☐
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Football shirts	☐	☐	☐	☐
Football boots	☐	☐	☐	☐
Football books	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other football kit	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other football items	☐	☐	☐	☐

Other (specify)_____

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Sun, August 8, 1999

Shumen v Spartak Varna
Lev Sofia v Chernomorets
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Olympic-Beroe v Botev
Belasitsa v Dobrudzha
Lovech v Slavia
Neftohimik v CSKA
Velbazhd* v Minjor
**Formerly known as Levski Kjustendil*

Sun, August 15

Spartak Varna v Minjor
CSKA v Velbazhd
Slavia v Neftohimik
Dobrudzha v Lovech
Botev v Belasitsa
Pirin v Olympic-Beroe
Chernomorets v Lok Sofia
Shumen v Lev Sofia

Sun, August 22

Lev Sofia v Spartak Varna
Lok Sofia v Shumen
Olympic-Beroe v Chernomorets
Belasitsa v Pirin
Lovech v Botev
Neftohimik v Dobrudzha
Velbazhd v Slavia
Minjor v CSKA

Sun, August 29

Spartak Varna v CSKA
Slavia v Minjor
Dobrudzha v Velbazhd
Botev v Neftohimik
Pirin v Lovech
Chernomorets v Belasitsa
Shumen v Olympic-Beroe
Lev Sofia v Lok Sofia

Sun, September 12

Lok Sofia v Spartak Varna
Olympic-Beroe v Lev Sofia
Belasitsa v Shumen
Lovech v Chernomorets
Neftohimik v Pirin
Velbazhd v Botev
Minjor v Dobrudzha
CSKA v Slavia

Sun, September 19

Spartak Varna v Slavia
Dobrudzha v CSKA
Botev v Minjor
Pirin v Velbazhd
Chernomorets v Neftohimik
Shumen v Lovech
Lev Sofia v Belasitsa
Lok Sofia v Olympic-Beroe

Sun, September 26

Olympic-Beroe v Spartak Varna
Belasitsa v Lok Sofia
Lovech v Lev Sofia
Neftohimik v Shumen
Velbazhd v Chernomorets
Minjor v Pirin
CSKA v Botev
Slavia v Dobrudzha

Sun, October 3

Spartak Varna v Dobrudzha
Botev v Slavia
Pirin v CSKA
Chernomorets v Minjor
Shumen v Velbazhd
Lev Sofia v Neftohimik
Lok Sofia v Lovech
Olympic-Beroe v Belasitsa

Sun, October 17

Belasitsa v Spartak Varna
Lovech v Olympic-Beroe
Neftohimik v Lok Sofia
Velbazhd v Lev Sofia
Minjor v Shumen
CSKA v Chernomorets
Slavia v Pirin
Dobrudzha v Botev

Sun, October 24

Spartak Varna v Botev
Pirin v Dobrudzha
Chernomorets v Slavia
Shumen v CSKA
Lev Sofia v Minjor
Lok Sofia v Velbazhd
Olympic-Beroe v Neftohimik
Belasitsa v Lovech

Sun, November 7

Lovech v Spartak Varna
Neftohimik v Belasitsa
Velbazhd v Olympic-Beroe
Minjor v Lok Sofia
CSKA v Lev Sofia
Slavia v Shumen
Dobrudzha v Chernomorets
Botev v Pirin

Sun, November 14

Spartak Varna v Pirin
Chernomorets v Botev
Shumen v Dobrudzha
Lev Sofia v Slavia
Lok Sofia v CSKA
Olympic-Beroe v Minjor
Belasitsa v Velbazhd
Lovech v Neftohimik

Sun, November 21

Neftohimik v Spartak Varna
Velbazhd v Lovech
Minjor v Belasitsa
CSKA v Olympic-Beroe
Slavia v Lok Sofia
Dobrudzha v Lev Sofia
Botev v Shumen
Pirin v Chernomorets

Sun, November 28

Spartak Varna v Chernomorets
Shumen v Pirin
Lev Sofia v Botev
Lok Sofia v Dobrudzha
Olympic-Beroe v Slavia
Belasitsa v CSKA
Lovech v Minjor
Neftohimik v Velbazhd

Sun, December 5

Velbazhd v Spartak Varna
Minjor v Neftohimik
CSKA v Lovech
Slavia v Belasitsa
Dobrudzha v Olympic-Beroe
Botev v Lok Sofia
Pirin v Lev Sofia
Chernomorets v Shumen

POLAND

Fri, July 16, 1999

Legia v LKS

Sat, July 17

Amica v Gornik
R Radzionkow v Halex*
Groclin v Pogon
Zaglebie v Lech
Petro Plock v R Chorzow
**Formerly known as Stomil*

Sun, July 18

Odra v Wisla

Wed, July 21

Widzew v Polonia

Sat, July 24

Halex v Groclin
Lech v Pogon
R Chorzow v Widzew
LKS v Odra
Gornik v Legia
Zaglebie v Amica

Sun, July 25

Wisla v Petro Plock

Sat, July 31

Amica v Lech
Legia v Zaglebie
Odra v Gornik
Petro Plock v LKS
Widzew v Wisla
R Radzionkow v R Chorzow
Groclin v Polonia
Pogon v Halex

Fri, August 6

Lech v Halex
Wisla v R Radzionkow
Amica v Legia

Sat, August 7

Polonia v Pogon
R Chorzow v Groclin
LKS v Widzew
Gornik v Petro Plock
Zaglebie v Odra

Sat, August 14

Odra v Amica
Petro Plock v Zaglebie
Widzew v Gornik
R Radzionkow v LKS
Groclin v Wisla
Pogon v R Chorzow
Halex v Polonia

Sun, August 15

Legia v Lech

Fri, August 20

Lech v Polonia

Sat, August 21

R Chorzow v Halex
LKS v Groclin
Gornik v R Radzionkow
Zaglebie v Widzew
Amica v Petro Plock
Legia v Odra
Wisla v Pogon

Sat, August 28

Odra v Lech
Widzew v Amica
R Radzionkow v Zaglebie
Groclin v Gornik
Pogon v LKS
Halex v Wisla
Polonia v R Chorzow

Sun, August 29

Petro Plock v Legia

Sat, September 4

Polonia v R Radzionkow

Sat, September 11

Wisla v Polonia
LKS v Halex
Gornik v Pogon
Zaglebie v Groclin
Amica v R Radzionkow
Legia v Widzew
Odra v Petro Plock

Sun, September 12

Lech v R Chorzow

Sat, September 18

Petro Plock v Lech
Widzew v Odra
Pogon v Zaglebie
Halex v Gornik
Polonia v LKS
R Chorzow v Wisla

Sun, September 19

R Radzionkow v Legia
Groclin v Amica

Sat, September 25

LKS v R Chorzow
Gornik v Polonia
Zaglebie v Halex
Amica v Pogon
Legia v Groclin
Odra v R Radzionkow
Petro Plock v Widzew

Sun, September 26

Lech v Wisla

Sat, October 2

Widzew v Lech
R Radzionkow v Petro Plock
Groclin v Odra
Pogon v Legia
Polonia v Zaglebie
R Chorzow v Gornik
Wisla v LKS

Sun, October 3

Halex v Amica

Sat, October 16

Lech v LKS
Gornik v Wisla
Amica v Polonia
Legia v Halex
Odra v Pogon
Petro Plock v Groclin
Widzew v R Radzionkow

Sun, October 17

Zaglebie v R Chorzow

Sat, October 23

R Radzionkow v Lech
Groclin v Widzew
Pogon v Petro Plock
Halex v Odra
Polonia v Legia
R Chorzow v Amica
LKS v Gornik

Sun, October 24

Wisla v Zaglebie

Sat, October 30

Lech v Gornik
Amica v Wisla
Legia v R Chorzow
Odra v Polonia
Petro Plock v Halex
Widzew v Pogon
R Radzionkow v Groclin

Sun, October 31

Zaglebie v LKS

Sat, November 6

Pogon v R Radzionkow
Halex v Widzew
Polonia v Petro Plock
R Chorzow v Odra
LKS v Amica
Gornik v Zaglebie

Sun, November 7

Groclin v Lech
Wisla v Legia

Round 16

Lech v Zaglebie
Gornik v Amica
LKS v Legia
Wisla v Odra
R Chorzow v Petro Plock
Polonia v Widzew
Halex v R Radzionkow
Pogon v Groclin

Round 17

Pogon v Lech
Groclin v Halex
R Radzionkow v Polonia
Widzew v R Chorzow
Petro Plock v Wisla
Odra v LKS
Legia v Gornik
Amica v Zaglebie

Round 18

Lech v Amica
Zaglebie v Legia
Gornik v Odra
LKS v Petro Plock
Wisla v Widzew
R Chorzow v R Radzionkow
Polonia v Groclin
Halex v Pogon

Round 19

Halex v Lech
Pogon v Polonia
Groclin v R Chorzow
R Radzionkow v Wisla
Widzew v LKS
Petro Plock v Gornik
Odra v Zaglebie
Legia v Amica

Round 20

Lech v Legia
Amica v Odra
Zaglebie v Petro Plock
Gornik v Widzew
LKS v R Radzionkow
Wisla v Groclin
R Chorzow v Pogon
Polonia v Halex

Round 21

Polonia v Lech
Halex v R Chorzow
Pogon v Wisla
Groclin v LKS
R Radzionkow v Gornik
Widzew v Zaglebie
Petro Plock v Amica
Odra v Legia

Round 22

Lech v Odra
Legia v Petro Plock
Amica v Widzew
Zaglebie v R Radzionkow
Gornik v Groclin
LKS v Pogon
Wisla v Halex
R Chorzow v Polonia

Round 23

R Chorzow v Lech
Polonia v Wisla
Halex v LKS
Pogon v Gornik
Groclin v Zaglebie
R Radzionkow v Amica
Widzew v Legia
Petro Plock v Odra

Round 24

Lech v Petro Plock
Odra v Widzew
Legia v R Radzionkow
Amica v Groclin
Zaglebie v Pogon
Gornik v Halex
LKS v Polonia
Wisla v R Chorzow

Round 25

Wisla v Lech
R Chorzow v LKS
Polonia v Gornik
Halex v Zaglebie
Pogon v Amica
Groclin v Legia
R Radzionkow v Odra
Widzew v Petro Plock

Round 26

Lech v Widzew
Petro Plock v R Radzionkow
Odra v Groclin
Legia v Pogon
Amica v Halex
Zaglebie v Polonia
Gornik v R Chorzow
LKS v Wisla

Round 27

LKS v Lech
Wisla v Gornik
R Chorzow v Zaglebie
Polonia v Amica
Halex v Legia
Pogon v Odra
Groclin v Petro Plock
R Radzionkow v Widzew

Round 28

Lech v R Radzionkow
Widzew v Groclin
Petro Plock v Pogon
Odra v Halex
Legia v Polonia
Amica v R Chorzow
Zaglebie v Wisla
Gornik v LKS

Round 29

Gornik v Lech
LKS v Zaglebie
Wisla v Amica
R Chorzow v Legia
Polonia v Odra
Halex v Petro Plock
Pogon v Widzew
Groclin v R Radzionkow

Round 30

Lech v Groclin
R Radzionkow v Pogon
Widzew v Halex
Petro Plock v Polonia
Odra v R Chorzow
Legia v Wisla
Amica v LKS
Zaglebie v Gornik

REP IRELAND

Sun, August 15, 1999
Drogheda v Shamrock
Finn Harps v Cork
St Patrick's Ath v Derry
Shelbourne v Galway
Sligo v UCD
Waterford v Bohemians

Sun, August 22
Bohemians v Shelbourne
Cork v Sligo
Derry v Waterford
Galway v Drogheda
Shamrock v Finn Harps
UCD v St Patrick's Ath

Fri, September 3
Derry v Shamrock
Drogheda v Bohemians
Galway v Cork
St Patrick's Ath v Finn Harps
Shelbourne v UCD
Waterford v Sligo

Sun, September 12
Bohemians v Derry
Cork v St Patrick's Ath
Finn Harps v Shelbourne
Shamrock v Waterford
Sligo v Drogheda
UCD v Galway

Sun, September 19
Bohemians v Shamrock
Derry v Drogheda
Shelbourne v Cork
Sligo v St Patrick's Ath
UCD v Finn Harps
Waterford v Galway

Sun, September 26
Cork v UCD
Drogheda v Waterford
Finn Harps v Derry
Galway v Bohemians
St Patrick's Ath v Shelbourne
Shamrock v Sligo

Sun, October 3
Bohemians v St Patrick's Ath
Derry v UCD
Drogheda v Finn Harps
Shamrock v Galway
Sligo v Shelbourne
Waterford v Cork

Sun, October 10
Cork v Bohemians
Finn Harps v Sligo
Galway v Derry
St Patrick's Ath v Waterford
Shelbourne v Drogheda
UCD v Shamrock

Sun, October 17
Bohemians v UCD
Derry v Sligo
Drogheda v St Patrick's Ath
Galway v Finn Harps
Shamrock v Cork
Waterford v Shelbourne

Sun, October 24
Cork v Drogheda
Finn Harps v Bohemians
St Patrick's Ath v Shamrock
Shelbourne v Derry
Sligo v Galway
UCD v Waterford

Sun, October 31
Bohemians v Sligo
Derry v Cork
Drogheda v UCD
Galway v St Patrick's Ath
Shamrock v Shelbourne
Waterford v Finn Harps

Sun, November 7
Bohemians v Waterford
Cork v Finn Harps
Derry v St Patrick's Ath
Galway v Shelbourne
Shamrock v Drogheda
UCD v Sligo

Sun, November 14
Drogheda v Galway
Finn Harps v Shamrock
St Patrick's Ath v UCD
Shelbourne v Bohemians
Sligo v Cork
Waterford v Derry

Sun, November 21
Bohemians v Drogheda
Cork v Galway
Finn Harps v St Patrick's Ath
Shamrock v Derry
Sligo v Waterford
UCD v Shelbourne

Sun, November 28
Derry v Bohemians
Drogheda v Sligo
Galway v UCD
St Patrick's Ath v Cork
Shelbourne v Finn Harps
Waterford v Shamrock

Sun, December 5
Cork v Shelbourne
Drogheda v Derry
Finn Harps v UCD
Galway v Waterford
St Patrick's Ath v Sligo
Shamrock v Bohemians

Sun, December 12
Bohemians v Galway
Derry v Finn Harps
Shelbourne v St Patrick's Ath
Sligo v Shamrock
UCD v Cork
Waterford v Drogheda

Sun, December 19
Cork v Waterford
Finn Harps v Drogheda
Galway v Shamrock
St Patrick's Ath v Bohemians
Shelbourne v Sligo
UCD v Derry

Sun, December 26
Bohemians v Cork
Derry v Galway
Drogheda v Shelbourne
Shamrock v UCD
Sligo v Finn Harps
Waterford v St Patrick's Ath

Mon, January 3, 2000
Cork v Shamrock
Finn Harps v Galway
St Patrick's Ath v Drogheda
Shelbourne v Waterford
Sligo v Derry
UCD v Bohemians

Sun, January 16
Bohemians v Finn Harps
Derry v Shelbourne
Drogheda v Cork
Galway v Sligo
Shamrock v St Patrick's Ath
Waterford v UCD

Sun, January 23
Cork v Derry
Finn Harps v Waterford
St Patrick's Ath v Galway
Shelbourne v Shamrock
Sligo v Bohemians
UCD v Drogheda

Sun, January 30
Drogheda v Shamrock
Finn Harps v Cork
St Patrick's Ath v Derry
Shelbourne v Galway
Sligo v UCD
Waterford v Bohemians

Sun, February 13
Bohemians v Shelbourne
Cork v Sligo
Derry v Waterford
Galway v Drogheda
Shamrock v Finn Harps
UCD v St Patrick's Ath

Sun, February 20
Derry v Shamrock
Drogheda v Bohemians
Galway v Cork
St Patrick's Ath v Finn Harps
Shelbourne v UCD
Waterford v Sligo

Sun, February 27
Bohemians v Derry
Cork v St Patrick's Ath
Finn Harps v Shelbourne
Shamrock v Waterford
Sligo v Drogheda
UCD v Galway

Sun, March 12
Bohemians v Shamrock
Derry v Drogheda
Shelbourne v Cork
Sligo v St Patrick's Ath
UCD v Finn Harps
Waterford v Galway

Sun, March 19
Cork v UCD
Drogheda v Waterford
Finn Harps v Derry
Galway v Bohemians
St Patrick's Ath v Shelbourne
Shamrock v Sligo

Sun, March 26
Bohemians v St Patrick's Ath
Derry v UCD
Drogheda v Finn Harps
Shamrock v Galway
Sligo v Shelbourne
Waterford v Cork

Sun, April 2
Cork v Bohemians
Finn Harps v Sligo
Galway v Derry
St Patrick's Ath v Waterford
Shelbourne v Drogheda
UCD v Shamrock

Sun, April 9
Bohemians v UCD
Derry v Sligo
Drogheda v St Patrick's Ath
Galway v Finn Harps
Shamrock v Cork
Waterford v Shelbourne

Sun, April 16
Cork v Drogheda
Finn Harps v Bohemians
St Patrick's Ath v Shamrock
Shelbourne v Derry
Sligo v Galway
UCD v Waterford

Sun, April 23
Bohemians v Sligo
Derry v Cork
Drogheda v UCD
Galway v St Patrick's Ath
Shamrock v Shelbourne
Waterford v Finn Harps

ROMANIA

Sat, July 24, 1999
Extensiv v Arges
Onesti v Resita
Gloria v Otelul
Brasov v Bacau
Rapid v Astra
National v U Craiova
Petrolul v Steaua

Sun, July 25
Farul v Dinamo

Fri, July 30
Ceahlaul v Brasov

Sat, July 31
Resita v Farul
Dinamo v Gloria
Bacau v Rapid
Otelul v Extensiv
Steaua v Rocar
U Craiova v Onesti

Sun, August 1
Arges v Petrolul

Wed, August 4
Resita v Dinamo
Extensiv v Gloria
Farul v U Craiova
Brasov v Steaua
National v Bacau
Onesti v Astra
Petrolul v Otelul
Rapid v Ceahlaul
Rocar v Arges

Sat, August 7
Astra v Farul
Ceahlaul v National
Dinamo v Extensiv
Arges v Brasov
Bacau v Onesti
Gloria v Petrolul
Otelul v Rocar
Steaua v Rapid
U Craiova v Resita

Sat, August 14
Resita v Astra
Farul v Bacau
Brasov v Otelul
National v Steaua
Onesti v Ceahlaul
Petrolul v Extensiv
Rapid v Arges
Rocar v Gloria
U Craiova v Dinamo

Sat, August 21
Astra v U Craiova
Ceahlaul v Farul
Dinamo v Petrolul
Extensiv v Rocar
Arges v National
Bacau v Resita
Gloria v Brasov
Otelul v Rapid
Steaua v Onesti

Sat, August 28
Astra v Dinamo
Resita v Ceahlaul
Farul v Steaua
Brasov v Extensiv
National v Otelul
Onesti v Arges
Rapid v Gloria
Rocar v Petrolul
U Craiova v Bacau

Sat, September 11
Ceahlaul v U Craiova
Dinamo v Rocar
Extensiv v Rapid
Arges v Farul
Bacau v Astra
Gloria v National
Otelul v Onesti
Petrolul v Brasov
Steaua v Resita

Sat, September 18
Astra v Ceahlaul
Resita v Arges
Farul v Otelul
Brasov v Rocar
Bacau v Dinamo
National v Extensiv
Onesti v Gloria
Rapid v Petrolul
U Craiova v Steaua

Sat, September 25
Ceahlaul v Bacau
Dinamo v Brasov
Extensiv v Onesti
Arges v U Craiova
Gloria v Farul
Otelul v Resita
Petrolul v National
Rocar v Rapid
Steaua v Astra

Sat, October 2
Astra v Arges
Ceahlaul v Dinamo
Resita v Gloria
Farul v Extensiv
Bacau v Steaua
National v Rocar
Onesti v Petrolul
Rapid v Brasov
U Craiova v Otelul

Sat, October 16
Dinamo v Rapid
Extensiv v Resita
Arges v Bacau
Brasov v National
Gloria v U Craiova
Otelul v Astra
Petrolul v Farul
Rocar v Onesti
Steaua v Ceahlaul

Sat, October 23
Astra v Gloria
Ceahlaul v Arges
Resita v Petrolul
Farul v Rocar
Bacau v Otelul
National v Rapid
Onesti v Brasov
Steaua v Dinamo
U Craiova v Extensiv

Wed, October 27
Extensiv v Astra
Arges v Steaua
Brasov v Farul
Gloria v Bacau
National v Dinamo
Otelul v Ceahlaul
Petrolul v U Craiova
Rapid v Onesti
Rocar v Resita

Sat, October 30
Astra v Petrolul
Ceahlaul v Gloria
Resita v Brasov
Dinamo v Arges
Farul v Rapid
Bacau v Extensiv
Onesti v National
Steaua v Otelul
U Craiova v Rocar

Sat, November 6
Extensiv v Ceahlaul
Brasov v U Craiova
Gloria v Steaua
National v Farul
Onesti v Dinamo
Otelul v Arges
Petrolul v Bacau
Rapid v Resita
Rocar v Astra

Sat, November 20
Astra v Brasov
Ceahlaul v Petrolul
Resita v National
Dinamo v Otelul
Farul v Onesti
Arges v Gloria
Bacau v Rocar
Steaua v Extensiv
U Craiova v Rapidg

SLOVAKIA

Fri, July 23, 1999
Zilina v FC Kosice
Tatran v Slovan
Banska Bystrica v Spartak Trnava
DAC v Petrzalka
Inter v Ruzomberok
Nitra v Humenne
Dubnica v Senec

Sat, July 24
Prievidza v Ozeta Trencin

Sat, July 31
Ozeta Trencin v Senec
Humenne v Dubnica
Ruzomberok v Nitra
Petrzalka v Inter
Spartak Trnava v DAC
Slovan v Banska Bystrica
FC Kosice v Tatran
Prievidza v Zilina

Sat, August 7
Zilina v Ozeta Trencin
Tatran v Prievidza
Banska Bystrica v FC Kosice
DAC v Slovan
Inter v Spartak Trnava
Nitra v Petrzalka
Dubnica v Ruzomberok
Senec v Humenne

Sat, August 14
Ozeta Trencin v Humenne
Ruzomberok v Senec
Petrzalka v Dubnica
Spartak Trnava v Nitra
Slovan v Inter
FC Kosice v DAC
Prievidza v Banska Bystrica
Zilina v Tatran

EUROPEAN LEAGUE FIXTURES

Sat, August 21

Tatran v Ozeta Trencin
Banska Bystrica v Zilina
DAC v Prievidza
Inter v FC Kosice
Nitra v Slovan
Dubnica v Spartak Trnava
Senec v Petrzalka
Humenne v Ruzomberok

Sat, August 28

Ozeta Trencin v Ruzomberok
Petrzalka v Humenne
Spartak Trnava v Senec
Slovan v Dubnica
FC Kosice v Nitra
Prievidza v Inter
Zilina v DAC
Tatran v Banska Bystrica

Sat, September 11

Banska Bystrica v Ozeta Trencin
DAC v Tatran
Inter v Zilina
Nitra v Prievidza
Dubnica v FC Kosice
Senec v Slovan
Humenne v Spartak Trnava
Ruzomberok v Petrzalka

Sat, September 18

Ozeta Trencin v Petrzalka
Spartak Trnava v Ruzomberok
Slovan v Humenne
FC Kosice v Senec
Prievidza v Dubnica
Zilina v Nitra
Tatran v Inter
Banska Bystrica v DAC

Sat, September 25

DAC v Ozeta Trencin
Inter v Banska Bystrica
Nitra v Tatran
Dubnica v Zilina
Senec v Prievidza
Humenne v FC Kosice
Ruzomberok v Slovan
Petrzalka v Spartak Trnava

Sat, October 2

Ozeta Trencin v Spartak Trnava
Slovan v Petrzalka
FC Kosice v Ruzomberok
Prievidza v Humenne
Zilina v Senec
Tatran v Dubnica
Banska Bystrica v Nitra
DAC v Inter

Sat, October 16

Inter v Ozeta Trencin
Nitra v DAC
Dubnica v Banska Bystrica
Senec v Tatran
Humenne v Zilina
Ruzomberok v Prievidza
Petrzalka v FC Kosice
Spartak Trnava v Slovan

Sat, October 23

Ozeta Trencin v Slovan
FC Kosice v Spartak Trnava
Prievidza v Petrzalka
Zilina v Ruzomberok
Tatran v Humenne
Banska Bystrica v Senec
DAC v Dubnica
Inter v Nitra

Sat, October 30

Nitra v Ozeta Trencin
Dubnica v Inter
Senec v DAC
Humenne v Banska Bystrica
Ruzomberok v Tatran
Petrzalka v Zilina
Spartak Trnava v Prievidza
Slovan v FC Kosice

Sat, November 6

Ozeta Trencin v FC Kosice
Prievidza v Slovan
Zilina v Spartak Trnava
Tatran v Petrzalka
Banska Bystrica v Ruzomberok
DAC v Humenne
Inter v Senec
Nitra v Dubnica

Sat, November 13

Dubnica v Ozeta Trencin
Senec v Nitra
Humenne v Inter
Ruzomberok v DAC
Petrzalka v Banska Bystrica
Spartak Trnava v Tatran
Slovan v Zilina
FC Kosice v Prievidza

SLOVENIA

Sun, August 1, 1999

Primorje v Mura Murska
BST Domzale v Maribor Teatanic
Rudar Velenje v Dravograd
Korotan v Publikum
Feroterm Pohorje v Olimpia
Potrosnik v HIT Gorica

Sun, August 8

Mura Murska v HIT Gorica
Olimpia v Potrosnik
Publikum v Feroterm Pohorje
Dravograd v Korotan
Maribor Teatanic v Rudar Velenje
Primorje v BST Domzale

Sun, August 15

BST Domzale v Mura Murska
Rudar Velenje v Primorje
Korotan v Maribor Teatanic
Feroterm Pohorje v Dravograd
Potrosnik v Publikum
HIT Gorica v Olimpia

Sun, August 22

Mura Murska v Olimpia
Publikum v HIT Gorica
Dravograd v Potrosnik
Maribor Teatanic v Feroterm Pohorje
Primorje v Korotan
BST Domzale v Rudar Velenje

Sun, August 29

Rudar Velenje v Mura Murska
Korotan v BST Domzale
Feroterm Pohorje v Primorje
Potrosnik v Maribor Teatanic
HIT Gorica v Dravograd
Olimpia v Publikum

Sun, September 12

Mura Murska v Publikum
Dravograd v Olimpia
Maribor Teatanic v HIT Gorica
Primorje v Potrosnik
BST Domzale v Feroterm Pohorje
Rudar Velenje v Korotan

Sun, September 19

Korotan v Mura Murska
Feroterm Pohorje v Rudar Velenje
Potrosnik v BST Domzale
HIT Gorica v Primorje
Olimpia v Maribor Teatanic
Publikum v Dravograd

Sun, September 26

Mura Murska v Dravograd
Maribor Teatanic v Publikum
Primorje v Olimpia
BST Domzale v HIT Gorica
Rudar Velenje v Potrosnik
Korotan v Feroterm Pohorje

Sun, October 3

Feroterm Pohorje v Mura Murska
Potrosnik v Korotan
HIT Gorica v Rudar Velenje
Olimpia v BST Domzale
Publikum v Primorje
Dravograd v Maribor Teatanic

Sun, October 17

Mura Murska v Maribor Teatanic
Primorje v Dravograd
BST Domzale v Publikum
Rudar Velenje v Olimpia
Korotan v HIT Gorica
Feroterm Pohorje v Potrosnik

Sun, October 24

Potrosnik v Mura Murska
HIT Gorica v Feroterm Pohorje
Olimpia v Korotan
Publikum v Rudar Velenje
Dravograd v BST Domzale
Maribor Teatanic v Primorje

Sun, October 31

Mura Murska v Primorje
Maribor Teatanic v BST Domzale
Dravograd v Rudar Velenje
Publikum v Korotan
Olimpia v Feroterm Pohorje
HIT Gorica v Potrosnik

Sun, November 7

HIT Gorica v Mura Murska
Potrosnik v Olimpia
Feroterm Pohorje v Publikum
Korotan v Dravograd
Rudar Velenje v Maribor Teatanic
BST Domzale v Primorje

Sun, November 14

Mura Murska v BST Domzale
Primorje v Rudar Velenje
Maribor Teatanic v Korotan
Dravograd v Feroterm Pohorje
Publikum v Potrosnik
Olimpia v HIT Gorica

Sun, November 21

Olimpia v Mura Murska
HIT Gorica v Publikum
Potrosnik v Dravograd
Feroterm Pohorje v Maribor Teatanic
Korotan v Primorje
Rudar Velenje v BST Domzale

Sun, November 28

Mura Murska v Rudar Velenje
BST Domzale v Korotan
Primorje v Feroterm Pohorje
Maribor Teatanic v Potrosnik
Dravograd v HIT Gorica
Publikum v Olimpia

Sat, December 4

Publikum v Mura Murska
Olimpia v Dravograd
HIT Gorica v Maribor Teatanic
Potrosnik v Primorje
Feroterm Pohorje v BST Domzale
Korotan v Rudar Velenje

WALES

Fri, August 20, 1999

Aberystwyth v Total Network

Sat, August 21

Barry v Rhyl
Caernarfon v Newtown
Caersws v Bangor
Connah's Quay v Cwmbran
Conwy v Afan Lido
Haverfordwest v Carmarthen
Inter Cardiff v Flexsys Cefn
Rhayader v Llanelli

Tues, August 24

Afan Lido v Haverfordwest
Flexsys Cefn v Connah's Quay
Llanelli v Aberystwyth
Rhyl v Bangor
Total Network v Barry

Wed, August 25

Caernarfon v Conwy
Carmarthen v Rhayader

Fri, August 27

Barry v Llanelli

Sat, August 28

Bangor v Total Network
Caersws v Flexsys Cefn
Carmarthen v Afan Lido
Connah's Quay v Newtown
Haverfordwest v Caernarfon
Rhayader v Aberystwyth

Tues, August 31

Cwmbran v Caersws
Newtown v Inter Cardiff

Sat, September 4

Aberystwyth v Barry
Afan Lido v Rhayader
Caernarfon v Carmarthen
Conwy v Connah's Quay
Inter Cardiff v Haverfordwest
Llanelli v Bangor
Rhyl v Flexsys Cefn
Total Network v Cwmbran

Fri, September 10

Carmarthen v Inter Cardiff

Sat, September 11

Afan Lido v Caernarfon
Bangor v Aberystwyth
Caersws v Conwy
Cwmbran v Llanelli
Flexsys Cefn v Total Network
Haverfordwest v Connah's Quay
Rhayader v Barry
Rhyl v Newtown

Fri, September 17

Aberystwyth v Cwmbran
Inter Cardiff v Afan Lido

Sat, September 18

Barry v Bangor
Caernarfon v Rhayader
Caersws v Haverfordwest
Connah's Quay v Carmarthen
Llanelli v Flexsys Cefn
Total Network v Newtown

Fri, September 24

Rhayader v Bangor

Sat, September 25

Afan Lido v Connah's Quay
Caernarfon v Inter Cardiff
Carmarthen v Caersws
Conwy v Total Network
Cwmbran v Barry
Haverfordwest v Rhyl
Newtown v Llanelli

Sun, September 26

Flexsys Cefn v Aberystwyth

Fri, October 1

Aberystwyth v Newtown

Sat, October 2

Bangor v Cwmbran
Barry v Flexsys Cefn
Caersws v Afan Lido
Connah's Quay v Caernarfon
Inter Cardiff v Rhayader
Llanelli v Conwy
Rhyl v Carmarthen
Total Network v Haverfordwest

Fri, October 8

Caersws v Barry

Sun, October 10

Conwy v Carmarthen
Haverfordwest v Rhayader
Newtown v Afan Lido
Rhyl v Cwmbran
Total Network v Llanelli

Sun, October 17

Inter Cardiff v Conwy

Fri, October 22

Rhayader v Cwmbran

Sat, October 23

Afan Lido v Rhyl
Caernarfon v Caersws
Carmarthen v Total Network
Conwy v Aberystwyth
Flexsys Cefn v Bangor
Inter Cardiff v Connah's Quay
Newtown v Barry

Fri, October 29

Llanelli v Carmarthen

Sat, October 30

Aberystwyth v Haverfordwest
Bangor v Newtown
Barry v Conwy
Caersws v Inter Cardiff
Connah's Quay v Rhayader
Cwmbran v Flexsys Cefn
Rhyl v Caernarfon
Total Network v Afan Lido

Fri, November 5

Conwy v Bangor

Sat, November 6

Afan Lido v Llanelli
Caernarfon v Total Network
Connah's Quay v Caersws
Haverfordwest v Barry
Inter Cardiff v Rhyl
Newtown v Cwmbran
Rhayader v Flexsys Cefn

Fri, November 12

Caersws v Rhayader

Sat, November 13

Aberystwyth v Afan Lido
Bangor v Haverfordwest
Barry v Carmarthen
Cwmbran v Conwy
Flexsys Cefn v Newtown
Llanelli v Caernarfon
Rhyl v Connah's Quay
Total Network v Inter Cardiff

Fri, November 26

Inter Cardiff v Llanelli

Sat, November 27

Caernarfon v Aberystwyth
Caersws v Rhyl
Carmarthen v Bangor
Connah's Quay v Total Network
Conwy v Flexsys Cefn
Haverfordwest v Cwmbran
Rhayader v Newtown

Fri, December 3

Cwmbran v Carmarthen

Sat, December 4

Aberystwyth v Inter Cardiff
Bangor v Afan Lido
Barry v Caernarfon
Flexsys Cefn v Haverfordwest
Llanelli v Connah's Quay
Newtown v Conwy
Rhyl v Rhayader
Total Network v Caersws

Fri, December 10

Inter Cardiff v Barry

Sat, December 11

Afan Lido v Cwmbran
Caernarfon v Bangor
Caersws v Llanelli
Carmarthen v Flexsys Cefn
Connah's Quay v Aberystwyth
Haverfordwest v Newtown
Rhayader v Conwy
Rhyl v Total Network

Fri, December 17

Aberystwyth v Caersws

Sat, December 18

Bangor v Inter Cardiff
Barry v Connah's Quay
Conwy v Haverfordwest
Cwmbran v Caernarfon
Flexsys Cefn v Afan Lido
Llanelli v Rhyl
Newtown v Carmarthen

Mon, December 27

Afan Lido v Barry
Caernarfon v Flexsys Cefn
Caersws v Newtown
Carmarthen v Aberystwyth
Connah's Quay v Bangor
Conwy v Rhyl
Haverfordwest v Llanelli
Inter Cardiff v Cwmbran
Total Network v Rhayader

Fri, January 7, 2000

Total Network v Aberystwyth

Sat, January 8

Afan Lido v Conwy
Bangor v Caersws
Carmarthen v Haverfordwest
Cwmbran v Connah's Quay
Flexsys Cefn v Inter Cardiff
Llanelli v Rhayader
Newtown v Caernarfon
Rhyl v Barry

Tues, January 11
Aberystwyth v Llanelli
Bangor v Rhyl
Barry v Total Network
Caersws v Cwmbran
Connah's Quay v Flexsys Cefn
Inter Cardiff v Newtown

Wed, January 12
Conwy v Caernarfon
Haverfordwest v Afan Lido
Rhayader v Carmarthen

Fri, January 14
Llanelli v Barry

Sat, January 15
Aberystwyth v Rhayader
Afan Lido v Carmarthen
Caernarfon v Haverfordwest
Conwy v Inter Cardiff
Cwmbran v Rhyl
Flexsys Cefn v Caersws
Newtown v Connah's Quay
Total Network v Bangor

Sat, January 22
Bangor v Llanelli
Barry v Aberystwyth
Carmarthen v Caernarfon
Connah's Quay v Conwy
Cwmbran v Total Network
Haverfordwest v Inter Cardiff
Rhayader v Afan Lido

Fri, January 28
Afan Lido v Connah's Quay

Sat, January 29
Aberystwyth v Bangor
Barry v Rhayader
Caernarfon v Afan Lido
Connah's Quay v Haverfordwest
Conwy v Caersws
Llanelli v Cwmbran
Newtown v Rhyl
Total Network v Flexsys Cefn

Fri, February 4
Afan Lido v Inter Cardiff
Newtown v Total Network

Sat, February 5
Bangor v Barry
Carmarthen v Connah's Quay
Cwmbran v Aberystwyth
Flexsys Cefn v Llanelli
Haverfordwest v Caersws
Rhayader v Caernarfon

Tues, February 8
Aberystwyth v Rhyl

Fri, February 18
Barry v Cwmbran

Sat, February 19
Aberystwyth v Flexsys Cefn
Bangor v Rhayader
Caersws v Carmarthen
Connah's Quay v Afan Lido
Inter Cardiff v Caernarfon
Llanelli v Newtown
Rhyl v Haverfordwest
Total Network v Conwy

Tues, February 22
Afan Lido v Newtown
Barry v Caersws
Flexsys Cefn v Rhyl

Fri, February 25
Newtown v Aberystwyth

Sat, February 26
Afan Lido v Caersws
Caernarfon v Connah's Quay
Carmarthen v Rhyl
Conwy v Llanelli
Cwmbran v Bangor
Flexsys Cefn v Barry
Haverfordwest v Total Network
Rhayader v Inter Cardiff

Fri, March 3
Cwmbran v Rhayader

Sat, March 4
Aberystwyth v Conwy
Bangor v Flexsys Cefn
Barry v Newtown
Caersws v Caernarfon
Connah's Quay v Inter Cardiff
Rhyl v Afan Lido
Total Network v Carmarthen

Tues, March 7
Llanelli v Total Network

Wed, March 8
Rhayader v Haverfordwest

Fri, March 10
Carmarthen v Llanelli

Sat, March 11
Afan Lido v Total Network
Caernarfon v Rhyl
Conwy v Barry
Flexsys Cefn v Cwmbran
Haverfordwest v Aberystwyth
Inter Cardiff v Caersws
Newtown v Bangor
Rhayader v Connah's Quay

Fri, March 17
Bangor v Conwy

Sat, March 18
Barry v Haverfordwest
Caersws v Connah's Quay
Cwmbran v Newtown
Flexsys Cefn v Rhayader
Llanelli v Afan Lido
Rhyl v Inter Cardiff
Total Network v Caernarfon

Fri, March 24
Rhayader v Caersws

Sat, March 25
Afan Lido v Aberystwyth
Caernarfon v Llanelli
Carmarthen v Barry
Connah's Quay v Rhyl
Conwy v Cwmbran
Haverfordwest v Bangor
Inter Cardiff v Total Network
Newtown v Flexsys Cefn

Fri, March 31
Flexsys Cefn v Conwy
Llanelli v Inter Cardiff
Newtown v Rhayader

Sat, April 1
Aberystwyth v Caernarfon
Bangor v Carmarthen
Cwmbran v Haverfordwest
Total Network v Connah's Quay
Rhyl v Caersws

Fri, April 7
Carmarthen v Cwmbran

Sat, April 8
Afan Lido v Bangor
Caernarfon v Barry
Caersws v Total Network
Connah's Quay v Llanelli
Conwy v Newtown
Haverfordwest v Flexsys Cefn
Inter Cardiff v Aberystwyth
Rhayader v Rhyl

Sat, April 15
Carmarthen v Conwy
Rhyl v Aberystwyth

Fri, April 21
Barry v Inter Cardiff

Sat, April 22
Aberystwyth v Connah's Quay
Bangor v Caernarfon
Conwy v Rhayader
Cwmbran v Afan Lido
Flexsys Cefn v Carmarthen
Llanelli v Caersws
Newtown v Haverfordwest
Total Network v Rhyl

Mon, April 24
Aberystwyth v Carmarthen
Bangor v Connah's Quay
Barry v Afan Lido
Cwmbran v Inter Cardiff
Flexsys Cefn v Caernarfon
Llanelli v Haverfordwest
Newtown v Caersws
Rhayader v Total Network
Rhyl v Conwy

Sat, April 29
Afan Lido v Flexsys Cefn
Caernarfon v Cwmbran
Caersws v Aberystwyth
Carmarthen v Newtown
Connah's Quay v Barry
Haverfordwest v Conwy
Inter Cardiff v Bangor
Rhyl v Llanelli

YUGOSLAVIA

Sat, July 31, 1999
Obilic v Rad
Vojvodina v Radnicki K
Cukaricki v Sutjeska
Proleter v Spartak
Hajduk K v OFK
Mogren v Buducnost
Sartid v Zemun
Milicionar v Zeleznik
Borac v Red Star

Sun, August 1
Hajduk B v Radnicki N

Sat, August 7
Zeleznik v Borac
Zemun v Milicionar
Buducnost v Sartid
Rad v Mogren
OFK v Obilic
Radnicki K v Hajduk K
Spartak v Vojvodina
Radnicki N v Proleter
Sutjeska v Hajduk B
Partizan v Cukaricki

Sat, August 21
Cukaricki v Pristina*
Hajduk B v Partizan
Proleter v Sutjeska
Vojvodina v Radnicki N
Hajduk K v Spartak
Obilic v Radnicki K
Mogren v OFK
Sartid v Rad
Milicionar v Buducnost
Borac v Zemun
Red Star v Zeleznik
**At press time, Pristina had withdrawn from the League*

Sat, September 11
Pristina v Zeleznik
Zemun v Red Star
Buducnost v Borac
Rad v Milicionar
OFK v Sartid
Radnicki K v Mogren
Spartak v Obilic
Radnicki N v Hajduk K
Sutjeska v Vojvodina
Partizan v Proleter
Cukaricki v Hajduk B

Sat, September 18
Hajduk B v Pristina
Proleter v Cukaricki
Vojvodina v Partizan
Hajduk K v Sutjeska
Obilic v Radnicki N
Mogren v Spartak
Sartid v Radnicki K
Milicionar v OFK
Borac v Rad
Red Star v Buducnost
Zeleznik v Zemun

Wed, September 22
Pristina v Zemun
Buducnost v Zeleznik
Rad v Red Star
OFK v Borac
Radnicki K v Milicionar
Spartak v Sartid
Radnicki N v Mogren
Sutjeska v Obilic
Partizan v Hajduk K
Cukaricki v Vojvodina
Hajduk B v Proleter

Sat, September 25
Proleter v Pristina
Vojvodina v Hajduk B
Hajduk K v Cukaricki
Obilic v Partizan
Mogren v Sutjeska
Sartid v Radnicki N
Milicionar v Spartak
Borac v Radnicki K
Red Star v OFK
Zeleznik v Rad
Zemun v Buducnost

Sat, October 2
Pristina v Buducnost
Rad v Zemun
OFK v Zeleznik
Radnicki K v Red Star
Spartak v Borac
Radnicki N v Milicionar
Sutjeska v Sartid
Partizan v Mogren
Cukaricki v Obilic
Hajduk B v Hajduk K
Proleter v Vojvodina

Wed, October 13
Vojvodina v Pristina
Hajduk K v Proleter
Obilic v Hajduk B
Mogren v Cukaricki
Sartid v Partizan
Milicionar v Sutjeska
Borac v Radnicki N
Red Star v Spartak
Zeleznik v Radnicki K
Zemun v OFK
Buducnost v Rad

Sat, October 16
Pristina v Rad
OFK v Buducnost
Radnicki K v Zemun
Spartak v Zeleznik
Radnicki N v Red Star
Sutjeska v Borac
Partizan v Milicionar
Cukaricki v Sartid
Hajduk B v Mogren
Proleter v Obilic
Vojvodina v Hajduk K

Sat, October 23
Hajduk K v Pristina
Obilic v Vojvodina
Mogren v Proleter
Sartid v Hajduk B
Milicionar v Cukaricki
Borac v Partizan
Red Star v Sutjeska
Zeleznik v Radnicki N
Zemun v Spartak
Buducnost v Radnicki K
Rad v OFK

Sat, October 30
Pristina v OFK
Radnicki K v Rad
Spartak v Buducnost
Radnicki N v Zemun
Sutjeska v Zeleznik
Partizan v Red Star
Cukaricki v Borac
Hajduk B v Milicionar
Proleter v Sartid
Vojvodina v Mogren
Hajduk K v Obilic

Sat, November 6
Obilic v Pristina
Mogren v Hajduk K
Sartid v Vojvodina
Milicionar v Proleter
Borac v Hajduk B
Red Star v Cukaricki
Zeleznik v Partizan
Zemun v Sutjeska
Buducnost v Radnicki N
Rad v Spartak
OFK v Radnicki K

Sat, November 13
Pristina v Radnicki K
Spartak v OFK
Radnicki N v Rad
Sutjeska v Buducnost
Partizan v Zemun
Cukaricki v Zeleznik
Hajduk B v Red Star
Proleter v Borac
Vojvodina v Milicionar
Hajduk K v Sartid
Obilic v Mogren

Wed, November 17
Mogren v Pristina
Sartid v Obilic
Milicionar v Hajduk K
Borac v Vojvodina
Red Star v Proleter
Zeleznik v Hajduk B
Zemun v Cukaricki
Buducnost v Partizan
Rad v Sutjeska
OFK v Radnicki N
Radnicki K v Spartak

Sat, November 20
Pristina v Spartak
Radnicki N v Radnicki K
Sutjeska v OFK
Partizan v Rad
Cukaricki v Buducnost
Hajduk B v Zemun
Proleter v Zeleznik
Vojvodina v Red Star
Hajduk K v Borac
Obilic v Milicionar
Mogren v Sartid

Sat, November 27
Sartid v Pristina
Milicionar v Mogren
Borac v Obilic
Red Star v Hajduk K
Zeleznik v Vojvodina
Zemun v Proleter
Buducnost v Hajduk B
Rad v Cukaricki
OFK v Partizan
Radnicki K v Sutjeska
Spartak v Radnicki N

Sat, December 4
Pristina v Radnicki N
Sutjeska v Spartak
Partizan v Radnicki K
Cukaricki v OFK
Hajduk B v Rad
Proleter v Buducnost
Vojvodina v Zemun
Hajduk K v Zeleznik
Obilic v Red Star
Mogren v Borac
Sartid v Milicionar

Sat, December 11
Milicionar v Pristina
Borac v Sartid
Red Star v Mogren
Zeleznik v Obilic
Zemun v Hajduk K
Buducnost v Vojvodina
Rad v Proleter
OFK v Hajduk B
Radnicki K v Cukaricki
Spartak v Partizan
Radnicki N v Sutjeska

Wed, December 15
Pristina v Sutjeska
Partizan v Radnicki N
Cukaricki v Spartak
Hajduk B v Radnicki K
Proleter v OFK
Vojvodina v Rad
Hajduk K v Buducnost
Obilic v Zemun
Mogren v Zeleznik
Sartid v Red Star
Milicionar v Borac

Sat, December 18
Borac v Pristina
Red Star v Milicionar
Zeleznik v Sartid
Zemun v Mogren
Buducnost v Obilic
Rad v Hajduk K
OFK v Vojvodina
Radnicki K v Proleter
Spartak v Hajduk B
Radnicki N v Cukaricki
Sutjeska v Partizan

REVISED DATES

ENGLAND
Everton v West Ham
Sun, Sep 19 (was Sep 18)
West Ham v Arsenal
Sun, Oct 3 (was Oct 2)
Liverpool v West Ham
Wed, Oct 27 (was Aug 11)
Sheff Wed v Man Utd
Postponed from Sat, Nov 27; new date tbc

SCOTLAND
Celtic v Rangers
Postponed from Sat, Sep 18; new date tbc

INTERNATIONALS

Sunday, August 1

Aug 1 - Asmara - AfNC qual
Eritrea 0
Senegal 2 (Camara 46, Toure 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000

Saturday, August 7

Aug 7 - Lusaka - Cosafa Castle Cup quarter-final
Zambia 1 (Taulito 68)
Mozambique 1 (Siame 21)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,000
Zambia 4-3 on pens

Sunday, August 8

Aug 8 - Dakar - AfNC qual
Senegal 2 (Ndiaye 15, Diop 86)
Zimbabwe 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000

Sunday, August 15

Aug 15 - Xanthi - friendly
Greece 3 (Niniadis 21, Mavrogenidis 60, Georgatos 70)
Mexico 2 (R Marquez 48, Rojas 50)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000
Greece: Eleftheropoulos (Mihopoulos 66) - Mavrogenidis, Pandelis, Konstantinidis (Dermitzakis 71) - Dabizas (Katsambis 64), Ouzounidis (Papadimitriou 64), Poursanidis (Koutsis 57), Zagorakis, Froussos (Antzas 64), Kyparissis - Niniadis, Georgatos.
Mexico: Corona - Molina (Castro 56), I Lopez, Galindo, D Martinez - Jaime (Lozano 46), Quintero, M Perez (R Marquez 46), Vallejo (Luis Perez 20) - Rojas (Aguayo 84), F Perez (Espinoza 84).

Wednesday, August 18

Aug 18 - Ljubljana - EC qual
Slovenia 2 (Zahovic 49, Osterc 80)
Albania 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Da Silva (Por)
Slovenia: Dabanovic - Osterc, Rudonja, Milanic (Milinovic), Galic - Knavs, Novak (Istenic), Ceh, Udovic (Acimovic) - Zahovic, Pavlin.
Albania: Strakosha - Pinari, Shulku, Xhumba, Vata - Bellai, Haxhi, Murati (Halili), Kola - Rraklli (Bogdani), Tare.

Aug 18 - Belgrade - EC qual
Yugoslavia 0
Croatia 0
Att: 52,600. **Ref:** Nilson (Den)
Yugoslavia: Kocic - Mirkovic, Mihajlovic, Djorovic (Drulovic 46), Jokanovic, Djukic, J Stankovic, Nadj, Mijatovic, Kovacevic (Milosevic 62), D Stankovic.
Croatia: Ladic - R Kovac, Jarni, Soldo, Stimac - D Simic, Asanovic, Boban (Biscan 75), Stanic - Suker, Jurcic.

Aug 18 - Minsk - friendly
Belarus 0
Russia 2 (Beschastnykh 38, Panov 47)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** Iacovlev (Mol)
Belarus: Tumilovich - Gurenko, Ostrovski, Lukhvich, Geratchenko - Chaika (Kovalenko 66), Baranov, Romatchenko (Stripeikis 78), Kulchy - Katchuro (Tarlovsky 53), Orlovski (Gorovoi 45).
Russia: Filimonov - Khlestov, Khokhlov, Smertin, Yanovski - Beschastnykh, Onopko, Karpin (Alenichev 45), Titov (Bulatov 78) - Panov (Semak 62), Tikhonov (Drozdov 82).

Aug 18 - Kyiv - friendly
Ukraine 1 (Rebrov pen 83)
Bulgaria 1 (M Petkov 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Lauks (Lat)
Ukraine: Shovkovskyi (Vorobiov 65) - Dmytrulin, Vatchoul, Holovko (Tsikhmeystruk 46), Mikitine - Husin (Konovalov 80), Maksimov, Kovaliov (Kirioukhine 75), Kossovskyi (Maksimuk 64) - Palyanista (Popov 46), Rebrov.
Bulgaria: Gospodinov - Penev (Gruev 66), Zagorcic (Kirilov 46), I Petkov, Yordanov (Markov 46) - Yankov, Borimirov, Petrov (Yantchev 77), Hristov (Todorov 46) - M Petkov, Yovov (Batchev 67).

Aug 18 - Copenhagen - friendly
Denmark 0
Holland 0
Att: 17,234. **Ref:** Norman (Swe)
Denmark: Schmeichel - Colding, Henriksen, Hogh, Heintze (Schjonberg 46) - Helveg, Goldbaek (Fredgaard 46), Tofting (Laursen 83), Tomasson (P Moller 57) - Jorgensen (Wieghorst 53), Sand.
Holland: Van der Sar - Reiziger (R De Boer 67), Stam, F De Boer, Cocu - Zenden, Kluivert, Jonk, Van Bronckhorst - Hasselbaink, Van Nistelrooy.

Aug 18 - Warsaw - friendly
Poland 1 (Hajto 7)
Spain 2 (Morientes 54, Munitis 66)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Husanjov (Rus)
Poland: Matysek (Dudek 67) - Siadaczka, Waldoch, Zielinski, Hajto - Adamczuk (Klos 87), Nowak (Czerwiec 80), Iwan, Swierczewski - Trzeciak (Kaluzny 67), Wichniarek (Wlodarczyk 87).
Spain: Canizares (Molina 73) - Michel Salgado, Paco, Cesar, Aranzabal - J Etxeberria (Guerrero 70), Engonga, Farinos (Mendieta 46), Luis Enrique (Valeron 46) - Raul, Morientes (Munitis 60).

Aug 18 - Drnovice - friendly
Czech Republic 3 (Koller 48, Zwyssig og 57, Baranek 90)
Switzerland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,895. **Ref:** Stuchlik (Aut)
Czech Republic: Maier - Suchoparek, Nikl, Rada - Poborsky (Baranek 83), Bejbl, Sloncik (Galasek 80), Nedved (Horvath 62), Nemec (Tyce 52) - Kuka (Wagner 66), Koller (Lokvenc 65).
Switzerland: Huber (Hilfiker 46) - Hodel - Jeanneret (Zwyssig 52), Wolf, Wicky, Rothenbulher (Smiljanic 77) - Sforza, Vogel (Wyss 77) - Celestini, Chapuisat (Rey 86), Comisetti (S Muller 68).

Aug 18 - Malmo - friendly
Sweden 0
Austria 0
Att: 12,222. **Ref:** Bo Larsen (Den)
Sweden: Hedman (Khilstedt 46) - Gustafsson, Mjalby, Lucic, Kaamark (Michael Svensson 46) - Alexandersson (Ljungberg 46), Magnus Svensson, D Andersson, Osmanovski - K Andersson, Larsson (Pettersson 46).
Austria: Manninger - Streiter, Winklhofer, Hatz - Ibertsberger, Kuhbauer, Vastic, Hortnagel (Kauz 68), Kirchler (Wimmer 89) - Mayrleb, Haas (Weissenberger 46).

Aug 18 - Bruges - friendly
Belgium 3 (Martens 41, Wilmots 58, E Mpenza 70)
Finland 4 (Wiss 31, J Johansson 45, 53, Lehkouso 63)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Hamer (Lux)
Belgium: Van de Walle - De Brul (De Boeck 46), Hoefkens, Staelens, Goor - Vanderhaeghe, Wilmots (Baseggio 80), Martens (Strupar 46), Hendrikx (Verheyen 46) - Walem, Cavens (E Mpenza 46).
Finland: Laaksonen (Viander 46) - Ylonen, Kuivasto, Lehkouso, Tihinen - Yla-Jussila, Wiss, Riihilahti (Vasara 40, Kugi 90), Paatalainen, Kolkka - J Johansson (Saastamoinen 73).

Aug 18 - Kavala - friendly
Greece 3 (Limberopoulos 20, 86, Froussos 90)
El Salvador 1 (G Garcia pen 52)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 2,500
Greece: Atmatsidis (Nikopolodis 46) - Mavrogenidis, Kasapis, Dabizas (Papdimitriou 77) - Ouzounidis (Antzas 46), Basinas (Katsiabis 46), Zagorakis (Lakis 46), Zikos, Kyparissis (Froussos 62) - Limberopoulos, Niniadis (Konstantinidis 46).
El Salvador: Munoz - Hernandez (Osorio 51), Guevara (Gomez 46), Merino, Quintanilla - Amaya (O Ramirez 80), Garcia, G Ramirez, Vilchez (Marinez 75) - Gochez, Medrano (Torres 67).

Aug 18 - Bratislava - friendly
Slovakia 1 (Fabus 80)
Israel 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,368. **Ref:** Guenov (Bul)
Slovakia: Susko - Hrabal, Varga, Valachovic, Kratochvil - Pinte (Kozuch 76), P Nemeth (Suchancok 84), Tomaschek, Labant (Leitner 84) - Fabus (Zeman 90), Majoros (Ujlaky 68).
Israel: Davidovich (Seinzinger 77) - Benado, Abukasis (Ben Shimon 46, Talker 55), Shelach - Harazi, Hazan (Badir 46), Berkovic (Tikva 74), Tal Banin (Telasnikov 74), Graieb (Amsalem 70) - Revivo, Mizrahi (Sevillia 70).

Aug 18 - Oslo - friendly
Norway 1 (Lund 87)
Lithuania 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 11,108. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Norway: Olsen (Baardsen 46) - Bergdolmo, Hoftun, Berg, Heggem (Halle 46) - Iversen, Mykland, Leonhardsen, Skammelsrud (Lund 66) - T A Flo, Solskjaer.
Lithuania: Leus - Novikovas, Sonolis, Alunderis, Radzius - Joksas, Grudzinskas, Juska (Karcemarskas 84), Vasiliauskas (Saulenas 76) - Poskus, Barevicius (Poutkalis 60).

Aug 18 - Lisbon - friendly
Portugal 4 (Rui Costa 17, Joao Pinto 38, Figo 45, Pauleta 68)
Andorra 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Coue (Fra)
Portugal: Vitor Baia (Quim 46) - Secretario, Paulo Madeira (Beto 66), Jorge Costa (Litos 70), Dimas - Paulo Bento, Paulo Sousa (Pauleta 46), Figo (Sergio Conceicao 46), Joao Pinto (Nuno Capucho 54), Rui Costa - Sa Pinto (Nuno Gomes 60).
Andorra: Alfonso - Pol (Benet 89), F Ramirez, T Lima, L Lima, Txema (A Martin 64) - E Gonzalez (Godoy 74), Sonejee (Escura 83), M Jimenez (Genis 70) - J Sanchez, Ruiz.

Aug 18 - Nicosia - friendly
Cyprus 2 (Malekkos 14, Gogic 65)
Romania 2 (Lupescu pen 45, J Filipescu 75)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 3,000
Cyprus: Panayiotou - Kaiafas, Z Charalambous (Pittas 46), Ioachim (Phillipou 46), M Charalambous, Melanarkitis, Engomitis, Aristocleous, Spoljaric (Nicolaou 75) - Gogic, Costas.
Romania: Stelea - Petrescu (Stokan 15), Nanu (Chivu 78), J Filipescu (Ciobotariu 87), Galca (Vladoiu 73) - Gh Popescu, Sabau, Munteanu, Moldovan (Loboni 34) - Lupescu, Ganea.

Aug 18 - Thorshavn - friendly
Faroe Islands 0
Iceland 1 (Gudjonsson pen 3)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,500. **Ref:** Ingvardsson (Swe)

Aug 18 - Parnu - friendly
Estonia 2 (Kristal 79, Ustritski 90)
Armenia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 500. **Ref:** Kotter (Est)
Estonia: Tohver - Piiroja, Kirs (Haavistu 70), Hohlov-Simson (Lemsalu 73), Saviauk (Meet 55) - Alonen, Anniste, Oper (Dmitri Ustritski 74), Kristal - Reim, Zelinski (O'Konnel-Bronin 87).
Armenia: Berezovski - K Barseghyan, V Hachatryan, Mkrtchyan, R Hachatryan - Petrosyants (A Hakopyan 87), Petrosyan (Dokhoyan 83), Tahmazyan, Asatryan - Yesayan (H Hakopyan 77), Mikaelyan (Kocharyan 77).

Aug 18 - Budapest - friendly
Hungary 1 (Sebok 39)
Moldova 1 (Clescenko 65)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000

Aug 18 - Montevideo - friendly
Uruguay 5 (Otero 21, 73, Coelho 30, O'Neill 47, Pacheco 55)
Costa Rica 4 (Gomez 7, 60, Fonseca 68, Bryce 75)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Troxler (Par)
Uruguay: Fabian Carini, Martin Del Campo, Alejandro Lembo, Paolo Montero, Gianni Guigou, Fabian O'Neill, Marcelo Romero, Fabian Coelho, Antonio Pacheco (Alvaro Recoba 63), Juan Gonzalez, Marcelo Otero.
Costa Rica: Erick Lonnis, Harold Wallace (Geovanni Jara 80), Mauricio Wright (Victor Cordero 80), Alexander Madrigal, Austin Berry, Roy Myers, Walter Centeno, Wilmer Lopez, Ronaldo Gomez, Rolando Fonseca, Allan Oviedo (Steven Bryce 46).

Friday, August 20

Aug 20 - Kavala - friendly
Greece 3 (Basinas 40, Limberopoulos pen 49, Liolidis 79)
El Salvador 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 500
Greece: Mihopoulos - Papadimitriou, Dermitzakis (Venetidis 46), Dabizas - Ouzounides, Kastiambis (Basinas 30), Hadjizissis (Liolidis 65), Karagounis, Kyparissis (Froussos 46) - Limberopoulos, Konstantinidis.
El Salvador: Munoz (Menendez 80) - R Hernandez (Osorio 65), Merino, Quintanilla - Gochez (A Martinez 75), Amaya (Tores 44), G Garcia, G Ramirez (O Ramirez 72), Vilchez - Medrano, Juan Gomez.

Saturday, August 21

Aug 21 - Zagreb - EC qual
Croatia 2 (Stanic 34, Soldo 55)
Malta 1 (Carabott 61)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,500

Saturday, August 28

Aug 28 - Windhoek - Cosafa Castle Cup semi-final
Namibia 1 (Goraseb 67)
Swaziland 1 (Masina 88)
HT: 0-0. **90min:** 1-1. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Sesikwe (Bot)
Namibia 4-2 on pens
Namibia: Kanalelo - Tjihero, Goagoseb, Doeseb, Mannetti, Hindjou (S Goraseb 64), Ouseb, Uutoni, Nauseb, Shivute, Jacobs.
Swaziland: Shi Dube - Shobane Dube, Maseko (Masangane 80), Mthethwa, Ngubane, Gamedze (Mdluli 35), Dlamini, Zikalala, Dlamini, Masina, Mkhwanazi (Nhlabatsi 36).

Aug 28 - Lagos - friendly
Nigeria 0
Ghana 0
Att: 20,000
Sent off: Bernard Aryee (Gha)

Wednesday, September 1

Sep 1 - Dublin - EC qual
Rep Ireland 2 (Robbie Keane 54, Kennedy 69)
Yugoslavia 1 (Stankovic 60)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 31,400. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
Rep Ireland: Kelly - Irwin (Carr 66), Staunton, Breen, Cunningham, Roy Keane (Carsley 69), Kilbane, Kinsella, Quinn (Cascarino 80), Robbie Keane, Kennedy.
Yugoslavia: Kocic - Komljenovic, Mihajlovic (Saveljic 69), Bolic, Govedarica, Djukic, Dejan Stankovic, Nadj (Kovacevic 76), Mijatovic, Milosevic, Savicevic (Drulovic 56).

EUROPEAN U-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

Gp 1 - Aug 17: Belarus 1 Switzerland 0.
Gp 2 - Aug 17: Slovenia 3 Albania 1.
Gp 8 - Aug 17: Yugoslavia 2 Croatia 6. Aug 20: Croatia 1 Malta 0. Aug 31 (Dublin): Rep Ireland 0 Yugoslavia 2 (Bokaj 56, 82).
Gp 9 - Aug 17: Estonia 1 Belgium 7.

EUROPE

EURO 2000 QUALIFIERS

Group 1

05.09.98 .....Wales Italy.....0-2
05.09.98 .....Belarus-Denmark 0-0
10.10.98 .....Italy-Switzerland.....2-0
10.10.98 .....Denmark-Wales 1-2
14.10.98 .....Wales-Belarus.....3-2
14.10.98 .....Switzerland-Denmark 1-1
27.03.99 .....Belarus-Switzerland 0-1
27.03.99 .....Denmark-Italy 1-2
31.03.99 .....Switzerland-Wales.....2-0
31.03.99 .....Italy-Belarus.....1-1
05.06.99 .....Italy-Wales 4-0
05.06.99 .....Denmark-Belarus.....1-0
09.06.99 .....Switzerland-Italy.....0-0
09.06.99 .....Wales-Denmark 0-2
04.09.99 .....Belarus-Wales.....1-2
04.09.99 .....Denmark-Switzerland 2-1
08.09.99 .....Switzerland-Belarus
08.09.99 .....Italy-Denmark
09.10.99 .....Wales-Switzerland
09.10.99 .....Belarus-Italy

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	6	4	2	0	11	2	14
Denmark	7	3	2	2	8	6	11
Wales	7	3	0	4	7	14	9
Switzerland	6	2	2	2	5	5	8
Belarus	6	0	2	4	4	8	2

Group 2

05.09.98 .....Georgia-Albania 1-0
06.09.98 .....Greece-Slovenia.....2-2
06.09.98 .....Norway-Latvia.....1-3
10.10.98 .....Slovenia-Norway.....1-2
10.10.98 .....Latvia-Georgia.....1-0
14.10.98 .....Norway-Albania 2-2
14.10.98 .....Greece-Georgia 3-0
14.10.98 .....Slovenia-Latvia 1-0
18.11.98 .....Albania-Greece 0-0
27.03.99 .....Greece-Norway 0-2

27.03.99 .....Georgia-Slovenia.....1-1
31.03.99 .....Slovenia-Albania .....Postp.
31.03.99 .....Latvia-Greece.....0-0
28.04.99 .....Latvia-Albania 0-0
28.04.99 .....Georgia-Norway 1-4
30.05.99 .....Norway-Georgia 1-0
05.06.99 .....Albania-Norway 1-2
05.06.99 .....Georgia-Greece 1-2
05.06.99 .....Latvia-Slovenia 1-2
09.06.99 .....Albania-Slovenia 0-1
09.06.99 .....Greece-Latvia.....1-2
18.08.99 .....Slovenia-Albania 2-0
04.09.99 .....Norway-Greece 1-0
04.09.99 .....Albania-Latvia 3-3
04.09.99 .....Slovenia-Georgia.....2-1
08.09.99 .....Greece-Albania
08.09.99 .....Norway-Slovenia
08.09.99 .....Georgia-Latvia
09.10.99 .....Albania-Georgia
09.10.99 .....Slovenia-Greece
09.10.99 .....Latvia-Norway

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	8	6	1	1	15	8	19
Slovenia	8	5	2	1	12	7	17
Latvia	8	3	3	2	10	8	12
Greece	8	2	3	3	8	8	9
Georgia	8	1	1	6	5	14	4
Albania	8	0	4	4	6	11	4

Group 3

05.09.98 .....Finland-Moldova 3-2
05.09.98 .....Turkey-Northern Ireland.....3-0
10.10.98 .....Turkey-Germany 1-0
10.10.98 .....Northern Ireland-Finland.....1-0
14.10.98 .....Moldova-Germany.....1-3
14.10.98 .....Turkey-Finland.....1-3
18.11.98 .....Northern Ireland-Moldova.....2-2
27.03.99 .....Northern Ireland-Germany.....0-3
27.03.99 .....Turkey-Moldova.....2-0
31.03.99 .....Germany-Finland 2-0
31.03.99 .....Moldova-Northern Ireland.....0-0
04.06.99 .....Germany-Moldova.....6-1
05.06.99 .....Finland-Turkey.....2-4
09.06.99 .....Moldova-Finland 0-0
04.09.99 .....Finland-Germany 1-2
04.09.99 .....Northern Ireland-Turkey.....0-3
08.09.99 .....Germany-Northern Ireland
08.09.99 .....Moldova-Turkey
09.10.99 .....Germany-Turkey
09.10.99 .....Finland-Northern Ireland

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Turkey	6	5	0	1	14	5	15
Germany	6	5	0	1	16	4	15
Finland	7	2	1	4	9	12	7
N Ireland	6	1	2	3	3	11	5
Moldova	7	0	3	4	6	16	3

Group 4

05.09.98 .....Armenia-Andorra 3-1
05.09.98 .....Ukraine-Russia.....3-2
05.09.98 .....Iceland-France 1-1
10.10.98 .....Andorra-Ukraine.....0-2
10.10.98 .....Russia-France 2-3
10.10.98 .....Armenia-Iceland.....0-0
14.10.98 .....Ukraine-Armenia.....2-0
14.10.98 .....France-Andorra 2-0
14.10.98 .....Iceland-Russia 1-0
27.03.99 .....Andorra-Iceland 0-2
27.03.99 .....France-Ukraine 0-0
27.03.99 .....Armenia-Russia 0-3
31.03.99 .....Ukraine-Iceland.....1-1
31.03.99 .....Russia-Andorra 6-1
31.03.99 .....France-Armenia 2-0
05.06.99 .....Ukraine-Andorra.....4-0
05.06.99 .....France-Russia 2-3
05.06.99 .....Iceland-Armenia.....2-0
09.06.99 .....Andorra-France 0-1
09.06.99 .....Russia-Iceland 1-0
09.06.99 .....Armenia-Ukraine 0-0
04.09.99 .....Ukraine-France 0-0
04.09.99 .....Iceland-Andorra 3-0
04.09.99 .....Russia-Armenia 2-0
08.09.99 .....Andorra-Russia
08.09.99 .....Iceland-Ukraine
08.09.99 .....Armenia-France
09.10.99 .....France-Iceland
09.10.99 .....Russia-Ukraine
09.10.99 .....Andorra-Armenia

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine	8	4	4	0	12	3	16
Russia	8	5	0	3	19	10	15
Iceland	8	4	3	1	10	3	15
France	8	4	3	1	11	6	15
Armenia	8	1	2	5	3	12	5
Andorra	8	0	0	8	2	23	0

Group 5

05.09.98 .....Sweden-England.....2-1
06.09.98 .....Bulgaria-Poland 0-3
10.10.98 .....Poland-Luxembourg.....3-0
10.10.98 .....England-Bulgaria 0-0
14.10.98 .....Bulgaria-Sweden 0-1
14.10.98 .....Luxembourg-England.....0-3
27.03.99 .....Sweden-Luxembourg.....2-0
27.03.99 .....England-Poland.....3-1
31.03.99 .....Luxembourg-Bulgaria 0-2
31.03.99 .....Poland-Sweden.....0-1
05.06.99 .....Poland-Bulgaria 2-0
05.06.99 .....England-Sweden.....0-0
09.06.99 .....Luxembourg-Poland.....2-3
09.06.99 .....Bulgaria-England 1-1
04.09.99 .....Sweden-Bulgaria 1-0
04.09.99 .....England-Luxembourg.....6-0
08.09.99 .....Luxembourg-Sweden
08.09.99 .....Poland-England
09.10.99 .....Sweden-Poland
10.10.99 .....Bulgaria-Luxembourg

GROUP 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	6	5	1	0	7	1	16
England	7	3	3	1	14	4	12
Poland	6	4	0	2	12	6	12
Bulgaria	7	1	2	4	3	8	5
Luxembourg	6	0	0	6	2	19	0

Group 6

05.09.98 .....Austria-Israel 1-1
05.09.98 .....Cyprus-Spain 3-2
10.10.98 .....Cyprus-Austria 0-3
10.10.98 .....San Marino-Israel 0-5
14.10.98 .....San Marino-Austria 1-4
14.10.98 .....Israel-Spain.....1-2
18.11.98 .....San Marino-Cyprus 0-1
10.02.99 .....Cyprus-San Marino 4-0
27.03.99 .....Spain-Austria 9-0
28.03.99 .....Israel-Cyprus.....3-0
31.03.99 .....San Marino-Spain 0-6
28.04.99 .....Austria-San Marino 7-0
05.06.99 .....Spain-San Marino 9-0
06.06.99 .....Israel-Austria 5-0
04.09.99 .....Austria-Spain 1-3
05.09.99 .....Cyprus-Israel.....3-2
08.09.99 .....Israel-San Marino
08.09.99 .....Spain-Cyprus
09.10.99 .....Spain-Israel
10.10.99 .....Austria-Cyprus

GROUP 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	6	5	0	1	31	5	15
Cyprus	6	4	0	2	11	10	12
Israel	6	3	1	2	17	6	10
Austria	7	3	1	3	16	19	10
San Marino	7	0	0	7	1	36	0

Group 7

02.09.98 .....Romania-Liechtenstein 7-0
05.09.98 .....Slovakia-Azerbaijan 3-0
06.09.98 .....Hungary-Portugal.....0-1
10.10.98 .....Portugal-Romania 0-1
10.10.98 .....Liechtenstein-Slovakia.....0-4
10.10.98 .....Azerbaijan-Hungary 0-4
14.10.98 .....Hungary-Romania 1-1
14.10.98 .....Slovakia-Portugal.....0-3
14.10.98 .....Liechtenstein-Azerbaijan 2-1
26.03.99 .....Portugal-Azerbaijan 7-0
27.03.99 .....Romania-Slovakia 0-0
27.03.99 .....Hungary-Liechtenstein.....5-0
31.03.99 .....Slovakia-Hungary.....0-0
31.03.99 .....Liechtenstein-Portugal.....0-5
31.03.99 .....Azerbaijan-Romania.....0-1
05.06.99 .....Portugal-Slovakia.....1-0
05.06.99 .....Romania-Hungary 2-0
05.06.99 .....Azerbaijan-Liechtenstein 4-0
09.06.99 .....Hungary-Slovakia.....0-1
09.06.99 .....Portugal-Liechtenstein.....8-0
09.06.99 .....Romania-Azerbaijan.....4-0
04.09.99 .....Azerbaijan-Portugal 1-1
04.09.99 .....Slovakia-Romania 1-5
04.09.99 .....Liechtenstein-Hungary.....0-0
08.09.99 .....Romania-Portugal
08.09.99 .....Slovakia-Liechtenstein
08.09.99 .....Hungary-Azerbaijan
09.10.99 .....Liechtenstein-Romania
09.10.99 .....Azerbaijan-Slovakia
10.10.99 .....Portugal-Hungary

GROUP 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	8	6	2	0	21	2	20
Portugal	8	6	1	1	28	3	19
Slovakia	8	3	2	3	9	9	11
Hungary	8	2	3	3	11	7	9
Azerbaijan	8	1	1	6	6	22	4
Liechtenstein	8	1	1	6	2	34	4

Group 8

05.09.98 .....Rep Ireland-Croatia 2-0
06.09.98 .....Macedonia-Malta 4-0
10.10.98 .....Malta-Croatia 1-4
14.10.98 .....Rep Ireland-Malta 5-0
14.10.98 .....Croatia-Macedonia.....3-2
18.11.98 .....Malta-Macedonia 1-2
18.11.98 .....Yugoslavia-Rep Ireland 1-0
10.02.98 .....Malta-Yugoslavia 0-3
27.03.99 .....Macedonia-Rep Ireland .....Postp.
27.03.99 .....Yugoslavia-Croatia .....Postp.
31.03.99 .....Croatia-Malta.....Postp.
31.03.99 .....Yugoslavia-Macedonia .....Postp.
05.06.99 .....Macedonia-Croatia.....1-1
05.06.99 .....Rep Ireland-Yugoslavia.....Postp.
08.06.99 .....Yugoslavia-Malta 4-1
09.06.99 .....Rep Ireland-Macedonia.....1-0
18.08.99 .....Yugoslavia-Croatia 0-0
21.08.99 .....Croatia-Malta 2-1
01.09.99 .....Rep Ireland-Yugoslavia 2-1
04.09.99 .....Croatia-Rep Ireland.....1-0
05.09.99 .....Yugoslavia-Macedonia.....3-1
08.09.99 .....Malta-Rep Ireland
08.09.99 .....Macedonia-Yugoslavia
10.10.99 .....Macedonia-Rep Ireland
10.10.99 .....Croatia-Yugoslavia

GROUP 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	7	4	2	1	11	7	14
Yugoslavia	6	4	1	1	12	4	13
Rep of Ireland	6	4	0	2	10	3	12
Macedonia	6	2	1	3	10	9	7
Malta	7	0	0	7	4	24	0

Group 9

04.06.98 .....Estonia-Faroe Islands 5-0
19.08.98 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Faroe Is.....1-0
05.09.98 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Estonia.....1-1
05.09.98 .....Lithuania-Scotland.....0-0
06.09.98 .....Faroe Islands-Czech Republic.....0-1
10.10.98 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Czech Rep.....1-3
10.10.98 .....Lithuania-Faroe Islands 0-0
10.10.98 .....Scotland-Estonia.....3-2
14.10.98 .....Lithuania-Bosnia-Herzegovina.....4-2
14.10.98 .....Scotland-Faroe Islands 2-1
14.10.98 .....Czech Republic-Estonia 4-1
27.03.99 .....Czech Republic-Lithuania 2-0
27.03.99 .....Scotland-Bosnia-Herzegovina ....Postp.
31.03.99 .....Lithuania-Estonia 1-2
31.03.99 .....Scotland-Czech Republic 1-2
05.06.99 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Lithuania.....2-0
05.06.99 .....Estonia-Czech Republic 0-2
05.06.99 .....Faroe Islands-Scotland 1-1
09.06.99 .....Estonia-Lithuania 1-2
09.06.99 .....Faroe Islands-Bosnia-Herzegovina .2-2
09.06.99 .....Czech Republic-Scotland 3-2
04.09.99 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Scotland.....1-2
04.09.99 .....Faroe Islands-Estonia 0-2
04.09.99 .....Lithuania-Czech Republic 0-4
08.09.99 .....Czech Rep-Bosnia-Herzegovina
08.09.99 .....Faroe Islands-Lithuania
08.09.99 .....Estonia-Scotland
05.10.99 .....Scotland-Bosnia-Herzegovina
09.10.99 .....Estonia-Bosnia-Herzegovina
09.10.99 .....Czech Republic-Faroe Islands
09.10.99 .....Scotland-Lithuania

GROUP 9

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CZECH REP*	8	8	0	0	21	5	24
Scotland	7	3	2	2	11	10	11
Estonia	8	3	1	4	14	13	10
Bosnia-Herz.	7	2	2	3	10	12	8
Lithuania	8	2	2	4	7	13	8
Faroe Islands	8	0	3	5	4	14	3

**Qualified for finals*

● The nine group winners and the best second-placed side** qualify automatically for the finals, to be held in Holland and Belgium from June 10 to July 2, 2000. The other eight runners-up will be drawn to play in four two-leg play-offs, the winners of which will also qualify. These ties will be played on Nov 13/14 (1st leg) and Nov 17 (2nd leg).

**The best second-placed side will be the one who won most points from the games against the teams finishing first, third and fourth in their group. If points totals from these matches are equal, goal difference, then number of goals scored, from these same games will be used to separate the teams.

● When teams finish level on points in the qualifying groups, position will be determined by the points gained in the matches between the countries concerned. If they are still level, goal difference and then away goals from those head-to-head games will be used to separate them.

EUROPEAN SUPERCUP

Aug 27 - Monaco - UEFA Super Cup
Lazio 1 (Salas 35)
Manchester Utd 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,223. **Ref:** Wojcik (Pol)
Lazio: Marchegiani - Negro, Nesta, Mihajlovic, Pancaro - Stankovic, Veron, Almeyda, Nedved (Simeone 66) - Mancini (Lombardo 83), Inzaghi (Salas 23).
Man Utd: Van der Gouw - G Neville, Stam (Curtis 57), Berg, P Neville - Beckham (Cruyff 58), Keane, Scholes, Sheringham - Cole (Greening 76), Solskjaer.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

3rd qual rnd, 2nd legs (Aug 25)

AIK Stockholm (Swe) 1 (Novakovic 58)
AEK Athens (Gre) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 11,000
AIK 1-0 on agg

Anorthosis Famagusta (Cyp) 0
Hertha Berlin (Ger) 0
Att: 3,000
Hertha 2-0 on agg

Boavista (Por) 4 (Litos 13, Augustine 99, 110, Rui Bento 117)
Brondby (Den) 2 (Christensen 46, Bjur 90)
HT: 1-0. **90min:** 1-2. **Att:** 18,500
Aet. Boavista 6-3 on agg

Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 1 (Herrlich 90)
Teplice (Cze) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000
Dortmund 2-0 on agg

Galatasaray (Tur) 1 (Okan 52)
Rapid Wien (Aut) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000
Galatasaray 4-0 on agg

Kyiv Dynamo (Ukr) 2 (Husin 74, Shatskih 90)
AaB Aalborg (Den) 2 (Oper 9, Garde 47)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 32,000
Dynamo 4-3 on agg

Mallorca (Spa) 1 (Stankovic pen 22)
Molde (Nor) 1 (Lund pen 85)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000
Agg 1-1. Molde on away goals

Maribor Teatanic (Slv) 2 (Simundza 24, Balajic 44)
Lyon (Fra) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,500. **Ref:** Sarvan (Tur)
Maribor 3-0 on agg

MTK Budapest (Hun) 0
Croatia Zagreb 2 (Simic 60, 86)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000
Croatia 2-0 on agg

Parma (Ita) 1 (Lassissi 66)
Rangers (Sco) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 24,087. **Ref:** Nilsson (Swe)
Rangers 2-1 on agg

Partizan Belgrade (Yug) 1 (Kesman 72)
Moscow Spartak (Rus) 3 (Shirko 19, 46, Titov pen 83)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,000
Spartak 5-1 on agg

PSV Eindhoven (Hol) 2 (Nilis 81, Ooijer 86)
Zimbru Chisinau (Mol) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000
PSV 2-0 on agg

Servette (Swi) 2 (Juarez de Souza 50, Thurre 89)
Sturm Graz (Aut) 2 (Kocijan 54, Vastic 78)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,500
Sturm Graz 4-3 on agg

Skonto Riga (Lat) 0
Chelsea (Eng) 0
Att: 8,000. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
Chelsea 3-0 on agg

Valencia (Spa) 2 (Juan Sanchez 59, 66)
Hapoel Haifa (Isr) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 17,500
Valencia 4-0 on agg

Widzew Lodz (Pol) 0
Fiorentina (Ita) 2 (Chiesa 40, Cois 68)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Sars (Fra)
Fiorentina 5-1 on agg

UEFA CUP

Qual rnd, 2nd legs

(Aug 24, 25, 26)

Birkirkara (Mlt) 0 Lyngby (Den) 0
(Lyngby 7-0 on agg);
Leiftur (Ice) 0 Anderlecht (Blg) 3
(Anderlecht 9-1 on agg);
Grazer AK (Aut) 4 Klaksvik (Far) 0
(Grazer AK 9-0 on agg);
Inter Cardiff (Wal) 1 HIT Gorica (Sln) 0
(HIT Gorica 2-1 on agg);
Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr) 2 Yerevan (Arm) 1
(Hapoel 4-1 on agg);
Omonia (Cyp) 3 Belshina Bobruisk (Bls) 0
(Omonia 8-1 on agg);
Tulevik Viljandi (Est) 0 Club Brugge (Blg) 2
(Brugge 5-0 on agg);
Levadia Maardu (Est) 1 Steaua Bucharest (Rom) 4
(Steaua 7-1 on agg);
St Johnstone (Sco) 2 VPS Vaasa (Fin) 0
(St Johnstone 3-1 on agg);
Bray Wanderers (Ire) 0 Grasshopper (Swi) 4
(Grasshopper 8-0 on agg);
Lech Poznan (Pol) 3 Metalurgs Liepaja (Lat) 1
(Lech Poznan 5-4 on agg);
Red Star (Yug) 1 Neftchi (Aze) 0
(Red Star 4-2 on agg);
Torpedo Kutaisi (Geo) 4 Lantana (Est) 2
(Torpedo 9-2 on agg);
Cork City (Ire) 1 IFK Gothenburg (Swe) 0
(IFK 3-1 on agg);
Kilmarnock (Sco) 2 KR Reykjavik (Ice) 0
(Aet. Kilmarnock 2-1 on agg);
Linfield (NI) 1 Lokomotiv Tbilisi (Geo) 1
(Lokomotiv 2-1 on agg);
Vaduz (Lie) 1 Bodo/Glimt (Nor) 2
(Bodo/Glimt 3-1 on agg);
Celtic (Sco) 4 Cwmbran Town (Wal) 0
(Celtic 10-0 on agg);
Sigma Olomouc (Cze) 0 Serif Tiraspol (Mol) 0
(Agg 1-1. Sigma 1-0 on away goals);
Spartak Trnava (Slk) 2 Vllaznia (Alb) 0
(Spartak Trnava 3-1 on agg);
Ujpest (Hun) 1 Vojvodina (Yug) 1
(Vojvodina 5-1 on agg);
Constuctorul (Mol) 1 Ferencvaros (Hun) 1
(Ferencvaros 4-2 on agg);
Dinamo Bucharest (Rom) 7 Mondercange (Lux) 0
(Dinamo 13-2 on agg);
Levski Sofia (Bul) 2 Apoel Nicosia (Cyp) 0
(Levski 2-0 on agg);
Sileks Kratovo (Mac) 2 Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) 1
(Shakhtar 4-3 on agg);
B36 Torshavn (Far) 0 Ankaragucu (Tur) 1
(Ankaragucu 2-0 on agg);
Bylis (Alb) 0 Inter Bratislava (Slk) 2
(Inter Bratislava 5-1 on agg);
Helsingborgs (Swe) 5 Riga (Lat) 0
(Helsingborgs 5-0 on agg);
Legia Warsaw (Pol) 4 Vardar (Mac) 0
(Legia Warsaw 9-0 on agg);
Dudelange (Lux) 1 Hajduk Split (Cro) 1
(Hajduk Split 6-1 on agg);
Kaunas (Lit) 2 Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr) 1
(Maccabi 4-3 on agg);
Zurich (Swi) 1 Sliema Wanderers (Mlt) 0
(Zurich 4-0 on agg);
Kareda (Lit) 2 Olimpija Ljubljana (Sln) 2
(Agg 3-3. Olimpija on away goals);
Shirak (Arm) 1 HJK Helsinki (Fin) 0
(HJK 2-1 on agg)

1st round draw

Aris Salonika (Gre) v Servette (Swi)
Inter Bratislava (Slk) v Rapid Wien (Aut)
Juventus (Ita) v Omonia Nicosia (Cyp)
Red Star Belgrade (Yug) v Montpellier (Fra)
Ajax (Hol) v Dukla Banska Bystrica (Slk)
Leeds United (Eng) v Partizan Belgrade (Yug)
Bodo/Glimt (Nor) v Werder Bremen (Ger)
Helsingborgs (Swe) v Karpaty Lviv (Ukr)
Lausanne (Swi) v Celta Vigo (Spa)
Skonto Riga (Lat) v Widzew Lodz (Pol)
Parma (Ita) v Kryvbas Kryvyi (Ukr)
Wolfsburg (Ger) v Debrecen (Hun)
Teplice (Slk) v Ferencvaros (Hun)
Tottenham (Eng) v Zimbru Chisinau (Mol)
Atletico Madrid (Spa) v Ankaragucu (Tur)
Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr) v Lens (Fra)
Beira Mar (Por) v Vitesse Arnhem (Hol)
Monaco (Fra) v St Johnstone (Sco)
Torpedo Kutaisi (Geo) v AEK Athens (Gre)
West Ham United (Eng) v Osijek (Cro)
Lokomotiv Tbilisi (Geo) v PAOK Salonika (Gre)
Amica Wronki (Pol) v Brondby (Den)
Roma (Ita) v Vitoria Setubal (Por)
Anderlecht (Blg) v Olimpija Ljubljana (Sln)
Lech Poznan (Pol) v IFK Gothenburg (Swe)
Celtic (Sco) v Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr)
HJK Helsinki (Fin) v Lyon (Fra)
Sigma Olomouc (Cze) v Real Mallorca (Spa)
AB Copenhagen (Den) v Grasshopper (Swi)
CSKA Sofia (Bul) v Newcastle United (Eng)
Benfica (Por) v Dinamo Bucharest (Rom)
MTK Budapest (Hun) v Fenerbahce (Tur)
Viking Stavanger (Nor) v Sporting Lisbon (Por)
Grazer AK (Aut) v Spartak Trnava (Slk)
Ionikos (Gre) v Nantes (Fra)
Hapoel Haifa (Isr) v Club Brugge (Blg)
Anorthosis Famagusta (Cyp) v Legia Warsaw (Pol)
NK Gorica (Sln) v Panathinaikos (Gre)
Steaua Bucharest (Rom) v Linz ASK (Aut)
Zenit St Petersburg (Rus) v Bologna (Ita)
Roda JC (Hol) v Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr)
Kaiserslautern (Ger) v Kilmarnock (Sco)
Hajduk Split (Cro) v Levski Sofia (Bul)
Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus) v Lyngby (Den)
Vojvodina Novi Sad (Yug) v Slavia Prague (Cze)
Zurich (Swi) v Lierse (Blg)
Stabaek (Nor) v Deportivo La Coruna (Spa)
Udinese (Ita) v AaB Aalborg (Den)

Ties to be played on September 16 and 30

INTERTOTO CUP

FINALS – 1st legs (Aug 10)

Montpellier 1 Hamburg 1;
Juventus 2 Rennes 0;
West Ham 0 Metz 1.

2nd legs (Aug 24)

Hamburg 1 Montpellier 1 (Agg 2-2. Montpellier on pens); Rennes 2 Juventus 2 (Juventus 4-2 on agg); Metz 1 West Ham 3 (West Ham 3-2 on agg).

Montpellier, Juventus and West Ham qualify for first round proper of UEFA Cup.

AUSTRIA

Aug 14: Salzburg 1 FC Tirol 0; Linz ASK 0 Rapid Wien 1; Lustenau 1 Sturm Graz 2: Austria Wien 0 SV Ried 2.
Aug 15: Grazer AK 3 Bregenz 0.
Aug 21: Sturm Graz 0 Salzburg 2; Rapid Wien 2 Grazer AK 1; FC Tirol 4 Bregenz 0; Lustenau 1 Austria Wien 0; SV Ried 2 Linz ASK 1.
Aug 24: Bregenz 1 Austria Wien 1.
Aug 28: Salzburg 1 Sturm Graz 1; Austria Wien 2 Lustenau 0; Linz ASK 1 SV Ried 0; Bregenz 0 FC Tirol 3.
Aug 29: Grazer AK 3 Rapid Wien 1.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Tirol	10	9	0	1	22	3	27
Rapid Wien	10	7	1	2	15	7	22
Sturm Graz	10	5	3	2	18	9	18
Salzburg	10	4	2	4	7	9	14
SV Ried	10	4	1	5	12	10	13
Grazer AK	10	4	1	5	13	15	13
Austria Wien	10	3	3	4	10	12	12
Lustenau	10	3	2	5	11	14	11
Bregenz	10	2	1	7	6	23	7
Linz ASK	10	1	2	7	7	19	5

BELGIUM

Saturday, August 14

Gent 0
Genk 2 (Oulare 23, T Gudjonsson 78) Att: 12,000

Germinal BA 3 (Demkine 35, Degryse 39, Severeyns 66)
Lommel 1 (Van Diest 90) Att: 7,000

Mechelen 2 (Elias 20, Van Hout pen 81)
Charleroi 1 (Rojas 90) Att: 8,500

St Truiden 1 (Dello 22)
Geel 1 (Lendvai 76) Att: 6,000

Westerlo 2 (T Brogno pen 45, 75)
Standard 1 (M Mpenza 35) Att: 8,000

Sunday, August 15

Anderlecht 5 (Koller 10, Radzinski 20, 50, 63, Koller 72)
Beveren 2 (Van Den Eede 75, Bonetto 85) Att: 22,000

Eendracht Aalst 2 (S Cooreman 15, 73)
Lierse 3 (Van Meir 46, 78, Cavens 66) Att: 7,500

Harelbeke 1 (Verhoene 75)
Mouscron 1 (Vanderhaeghe pen 60) Att: 6,000

Lokeren 2 (Janssens 37, 66)
Club Brugge 5 (Englebert 25, Jankauskas 41, 72, Clement 44, Verheyen 90) Att: 8,000

Saturday, August 21

Beveren 2 (Tarachulski 13, De Meyer 38)
Harelbeke 2 (Verhoene 65, Sandra 89) Att: 3,000

Charleroi 1 (D Brogno 4)
Westerlo 2 (Mitrovic 68, Porte 90) Att: 7,000

Geel 1 (Daelemans 58)
Genk 1 (D Smits og 73) Att: 8,500

Mouscron 2 (Vanderhaeghe 52, pen 62)
Mechelen 0 Att: 8,500

St Truiden 1 (Voets 86)
Lokeren 1 (Budka 38) Att: 5,000

Standard 0
Gent 2 (Schepens 61, Vasov 85) Att: 20,000

Sunday, August 22

Club Brugge 2 (Verheyen 39, 66)
Germinal BA 0 Att: 18,000

Lierse 0
Anderlecht 3 (Radzinski 5, Zetterberg pen 14, Van Diemen 83) Att: 12,500

Lommel 3 (Simons 38, Waligora 77, Dekelver 90)
Eendracht Aalst 3 (S Cooreman 27, 65, Thibault 35) Att: 6,000

Saturday, August 28

Gent 3 (Szekeres 24, Roussel 26, pen 65)
Charleroi 2 (Rojas 8, D Brogno 90) Att: 6,500

Germinal BA 3 (Hofmans 3, Demkine 10, Haagdoren 37)
St Truiden 1 (Vrancken 68) Att: 6,000

Lokeren 0
Geel 0 Att: 3,500

Mechelen 3 (Camus 23, Bal 27, Ribus 69)
Beveren 1 (Imagbudu pen 8) Att: 6,600

Westerlo 3 (T Brogno 11, pen 62, Mitrovic 71)
Mouscron 0 Att: 5,000

Sunday, August 29

Anderlecht 3 (Ekakia 36, 65, Stoica 71)
Lommel 3 (Grant 43, Dekelver 79, 85) Att: 24,891

Eendracht Aalst 0
Club Brugge 2 (Vermant 17, Janssen 90) Att: 10,000

Genk 4 (Hendrikx 17, Horvath 25, 27, 44)
Standard 0 Att: 21,000

Harelbeke 0
Lierse 3 (Cavens 66, 84, Huysegems 89) Att: 5,500

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Brugge	4	4	0	0	13	2	12
Anderlecht	4	3	1	0	14	7	10
Westerlo	4	3	1	0	13	8	10
Gent	4	3	0	1	10	5	9
Lierse	4	3	0	1	9	6	9
Genk	4	2	2	0	13	7	8
Germinal BA	4	2	0	2	7	7	6
Mechelen	4	2	0	2	6	6	6
Lommel	4	1	2	1	8	9	5
Eendracht Aalst	4	1	1	2	7	8	4
Mouscron	4	1	1	2	5	7	4
Charleroi	4	1	0	3	6	8	3
Geel	4	0	3	1	3	7	3
Standard	4	1	0	3	3	9	3
Harelbeke	4	0	2	2	4	8	2
Lokeren	4	0	2	2	3	7	2
St Truiden	4	0	2	2	3	9	2
Beveren	4	0	1	3	5	12	1

BULGARIA

Aug 11: Shumen 0 Spartak Varna 3.
Aug 14: Slavia 1 Neftohimik 1; Dobrudzha 1 Lovech 3; Botev 2 Belasitsa 0; Pirin 2 Olympic-Beroe 1; Chernomorets 1 Lok Sofia 1.
Aug 15: Spartak Varna 1 Minjor 0; Shumen 1 Lev Sofia 4; CSKA 3 Velbazhd 1.
Aug 21: Belasitsa 4 Pirin 1; Olympic-Beroe 1 Chernomorets 0; Lovech 2 Botev 0; Velbazhd 1 Slavia 0; Minjor 1 CSKA 2; Lev Sofia 5 Spartak Varna 0; Neftohimik 3 Dobrudzha 1; Lok Sofia 2 Shumen 0.
Aug 28: Slavia 4 Minjor 1; Dobrudzha 0 Velbazhd 1; Botev 1 Neftohimik 2; Chernomorets 3 Belasitsa 0; Shumen 2 Olympic-Beroe 1.
Aug 29: Pirin 0 Lovech 1; Spartak Varna 1 CSKA 2; Lev Sofia 3 Lok Sofia 0.

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lev Sofia	4	4	0	0	14	1	12
Neftohimik	4	3	1	0	8	4	10
Lovech	4	3	0	1	6	2	9
CSKA	4	3	0	1	8	5	9
Velbazhd	4	3	0	1	6	3	9
Lok Sofia	4	2	1	1	8	5	7
Slavia	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
Olympic-Beroe	4	2	0	2	8	6	6
Belasitsa	4	2	0	2	5	6	6
Spartak Varna	4	2	0	2	5	7	6
Chernomorets	4	1	1	2	4	4	4
Botev	4	1	0	3	5	9	3
Pirin	4	1	0	3	4	11	3
Shumen	4	1	0	3	3	10	3
Dobrudzha	4	0	0	4	2	8	0
Minjor	4	0	0	4	2	10	0

CROATIA

Aug 1: Hajduk 3 Sibenik 1.
Aug 28: Varteks 0 Cibalia 3; Istra 4 Hrvatski drag 5; Vukovar '91 3 Osijek 1; Zagreb 0 Slaven 1.
Aug 29: Sibenik 1 Croatia 1; Rijeka 1 Hajduk 2.

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
Vukovar '91	3	2	0	1	8	6	6
Hajduk	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
Slaven	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Osijek	3	2	0	1	3	3	6
Hrvatski drag	2	1	1	0	5	4	4
Cibalia	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
Zagreb	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Varteks	3	1	0	2	4	9	3
Sibenik	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
Rijeka	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Istra	3	0	0	3	4	8	0

CZECH REP

Aug 13-15: Kralove 0 Slavia 1; Liberec 1 Chmel Blsany 1; Ceske Budejovice 1 Opava 0; Ostrava 2 Olomouc 2; Bohemians 3 Drnovice 1; Teplice 2 Dukla 0; Sparta 3 Jablonec 0; Brno 4 Zizkov 2.
Aug 21: Opava 4 Brno 1.
Aug 22: Teplice 4 Sparta 1; Jablonec 2 Ceske Budejovice 1; Drnovice 1 Ostrava 0; Olomouc 2 Kralove 2; Slavia 0 Liberec 0; Dukla 1 Chmel Blsany 0; Zizkov 2 Bohemians 2.
Aug 27: Chmel Blsany 2 Slavia 3.
Aug 28: Sparta 2 Dukla 1; Brno 2 Jablonec 0; Ostrava 1 Zizkov 1; Kralove 0 Drnovice 2.
Aug 29: Ceske Budejovice 3 Teplice 1; Bohemians 1 Opava 0; Liberec 0 Olomouc 0.

CZECH REP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slavia	5	4	1	0	7	2	13
Ceske Budejovice	5	3	1	1	8	4	10
Sparta	5	3	1	1	10	7	10
Drnovice	5	3	0	2	6	5	9
Brno	5	3	0	2	8	8	9
Bohemians	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
Liberec	5	1	4	0	5	3	7
Teplice	5	2	1	2	9	9	7
Dukla	5	2	1	2	5	5	7
Jablonec	5	2	0	3	5	9	6
Ostrava	5	1	2	2	9	7	5
Opava	5	1	2	2	6	5	5
Olomouc	5	0	4	1	4	5	4
Chmel Blsany	5	1	1	3	5	11	4
Zizkov	5	0	3	2	7	10	3
Kralove	5	0	1	4	3	9	1

DENMARK

Aug 16: AGF 1 FC Copenhagen 0.
Aug 21: AaB 1 AGF 0; AB 2 Brondby 0.
Aug 22: Silkeborg 4 Esbjerg 0; Herfolge 1 Vejle 1; Viborg 2 Lyngby 0.
Aug 23: FC Copenhagen 1 OB 0.
Aug 29: Vejle 2 Viborg 3; Brondby 2 Herfolge 2; Esbjerg 0 AB 1; OB 2 AaB 2; Silkeborg 2 AGF 0.
Aug 30: Lyngby 1 FC Copenhagen 0.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AB	6	5	1	0	10	0	16
Brondby	6	4	1	1	11	5	13
AaB	6	4	1	1	10	6	13
Herfolge	6	3	3	0	10	6	12
Viborg	6	3	2	1	9	7	11
Silkeborg	6	3	1	2	11	3	10
Lyngby	6	2	0	4	7	9	6
AGF	6	1	2	3	3	6	5
FC Copenhagen	6	1	1	4	2	6	4
Esbjerg	6	1	1	4	5	14	4
Vejle	6	0	3	3	4	13	3
OB	6	0	2	4	3	10	2

ENGLAND

Monday, August 9

Tottenham 3 (Iversen 29, Ferdinand 45, Sherwood 61)
Newcastle 1 (Solano 17) Att: 28,701

Tuesday, August 10

Derby 1 (Delap 45)
Arsenal 2 (Petit 40, Bergkamp 47) Att: 25,901

Sunderland 2 (Phillips pen 62, 86)
Watford 0 Att: 30,017

Wimbledon 2 (Cort 17, Hartson 86)
Middlesbrough 3 (Ziege 23, Ricard pen 28, 64) Att: 11,036

Wednesday, August 11

Aston Villa 3 (Joachim 9, Dublin 57, Taylor 85)
Everton 0 Att: 30,337

Leicester 1 (Izzet pen 24)
Coventry 0 Att: 19,196

Man Utd 4 (Scholes 9, Yorke 35, Cole 54, Solskjaer 84)
Sheffield Wed 0 Att: 54,941

Southampton 0
Leeds 3 (Bridges 11, 51, 72) Att: 15,206

Saturday, August 14

Bradford 1 (Beagrie pen 89)
Sheffield Wed 1 (Dreyer og 39) Att: 18,276

Derby 1 (Burton 41)
Middlesbrough 3 (Deane 9, Ziege 20, Ricard pen 66) Att: 24,045

Leicester 2 (Heskey 10, Izzet pen 89)
Chelsea 2 (Wise 48, Sinclair og 90) Att: 21,068

Liverpool 0
Watford 1 (Mooney 14) Att: 44,174

Man Utd 2 (Yorke 76, 80)
Leeds 0 Att: 55,187

Sunderland 0
Arsenal 0 Att: 41,680

Tottenham 3 (Sherwood 34, Leonhardsen 82, Iversen 86)
Everton 2 (Unsworth pen 24, pen 77) Att: 34,539

Wimbledon 1 (Cort 67)
Coventry 1 (McAllister pen 90) Att: 10,635

Sunday, August 15

Southampton 4 (Kachloul 58, 68, Pahars 66, Hughes 78)
Newcastle 2 (Shearer pen 22, Speed 83) Att: 15,030

Monday, August 16

Aston Villa 2 (Dublin 5, 52)
West Ham 2 (Southgate og 7, Sinclair 90) Att: 26,250

Saturday, August 21

Chelsea 1 (Ehiogu og 52)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 35,071

Coventry 2 (Keane 43, 67)
Derby 0 Att: 17,685

Everton 4 (Gough 36, Lundekvam og 47, Jeffers 48, Campbell 54)
Southampton 1 (Pahars 70) Att: 31,755

Leeds 2 (Bowyer 52, Mills 71)
Sunderland 1 (Phillips 37) Att: 39,064

Middlesbrough 1 (Deane 49)
Liverpool 0 Att: 34,783

Newcastle 3 (Speed 7, Domi 28, Solano pen 46)
Wimbledon 3 (Hughes 44, Ainsworth 68, 90) Att: 35,809

Sheffield Wed 1 (Carbone pen 23)
Tottenham 2 (Ferdinand 19, Leonhardsen 41) Att: 24,027

Watford 1 (Mooney 71)
Bradford 0 Att: 15,564

West Ham 2 (Wanchope 29, Di Canio 53)
Leicester 1 (Heskey 2) Att: 23,631

Sunday, August 22

Arsenal 1 (Ljungberg 41)
Man Utd 2 (Keane 58, 88) Att: 38,147

Monday, August 23

Leeds 1 (Song og 20)
Liverpool 2 (Camara 45, Radebe og 55) Att: 39,703

Tuesday, August 24

Middlesbrough 0
Leicester 3 (Heskey 35, 83, Cottee 38) Att: 33,126

Watford 0
Aston Villa 1 (Delaney 68) Att: 19,161

Wednesday, August 25

Arsenal 2 (Vieira 8, Kanu pen 17)
Bradford 0 Att: 30,073

Coventry 1 (Aloisi 80)
Man Utd 2 (Scholes 62, Yorke 75) Att: 22,024

Everton 4 (Unsworth 16, Barmby 46, Jeffers 50, Campbell 68)
Wimbledon 0 Att: 32,818

Newcastle 1 (Dyer 28)
Sunderland 2 (Quinn 64, Phillips 75) Att: 36,000

Sheffield Wed 0
Derby 2 (Delap 54, Sturridge 79) Att: 20,943

Saturday, August 28

Aston Villa 1 (Dublin 5)
Middlesbrough 0 Att: 28,728

Bradford 0
West Ham 3 (Di Canio 34, Sinclair 44, Wanchope 49) Att: 17,926

Derby 1 (Fuertes 47)
Everton 0 Att: 26,550

Liverpool 2 (Fowler 8, Berger 76)
Arsenal 0 Att: 44,886

Southampton 2 (Kachloul 53, Oakley 84)
Sheffield Wed 0 Att: 14,815

Tottenham 1 (Sherwood 36)
Leeds 2 (Smith 53, Harte 83) Att: 36,012

Wimbledon 0
Chelsea 1 (Petrescu 78) Att: 22,167

Sunday, August 29

Sunderland 1 (Phillips 73)
Coventry 1 (Keane 33) Att: 39,427

Monday, August 30

Man Utd 5 (Cole 14, 46, 65, 71, Giggs 80)
Newcastle 1 (Berg og 31) Att: 55,190

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	6	5	1	0	16	4	16
Aston Villa	6	4	1	1	8	3	13
Chelsea	4	3	1	0	8	2	10
West Ham	4	3	1	0	8	3	10
Leeds	6	3	1	2	8	6	10
Arsenal	6	3	1	2	7	6	10
Tottenham	5	3	0	2	9	7	9
Liverpool	5	3	0	2	6	4	9
Southampton	5	3	0	2	8	9	9
Middlesbrough	6	3	0	3	7	8	9
Sunderland	6	2	2	2	6	8	8
Everton	6	2	1	3	11	9	7
Leicester	5	2	1	2	8	6	7
Derby	6	2	1	3	5	7	7
Watford	5	2	0	3	4	6	6
Coventry	6	1	2	3	5	6	5
Wimbledon	6	1	2	3	9	14	5
Bradford	5	1	1	3	2	7	4
Newcastle	6	0	1	5	8	18	1
Sheffield Wed	6	0	1	5	3	13	1

FRANCE

Saturday, August 14

Auxerre 3 (Guivarc'h 16, Ciechelski 36, Tainio 83)
Sedan 1 (Di Rocco 82) Att: 10,000

Bordeaux 4 (Ziani 45, 47, Laslandes 75, 90)
Troyes 0 Att: 31,181

Monaco 4 (Trezeguet 40, 75, 78, Giuly pen 88)
Bastia 0 Att: 18,500

Nancy 3 (Bottelin 50, Biancalani 52, Cascarino 89)
Le Havre 0 Att: 8,000

Nantes 0
Lens 1 (Job 51) Att: 32,000

Paris SG 2 (Algerino 5, Okocha 29)
Metz 1 (Meyrieu 10) Att: 41,549

Strasbourg 2 (Haas 45, Bertin pen 82)
Montpellier 0 Att: 18,766

Sunday, August 15

Lyon 2 (Anderson 30, Carteron 90)
Rennes 2 (Bassila 45, Nonda 75) Att: 28,130

Marseille 3 (Ravanelli 4, Bakayoko pen 50, Maurice 80)
Saint-Etienne 3 (Pedron 38, 61, Sarr 87) Att: 56,890

Friday, August 20

Le Havre 2 (Deniau 36, Kerkar 47)
Sedan 1 (Mionnet 60) Att: 9,892

Metz 0
Lyon 1 (Caveglia 90)

Montpellier 2 (Sorlin 29, Maoulida 76)
Monaco 3 (Trezeguet 52, Simone 53, 83) Att: 21,566

Paris SG 1 (Rodriguez 85)
Auxerre 1 (Guivarc'h 36) Att: 42,161

Rennes 2 (Diouf 44, Saveljic og 53)
Bordeaux 1 (Laslandes 8) Att: 13,974

Saint-Etienne 2 (Alex 65, Aloisio 80)
Nancy 1 (Chiba 24) Att: 28,824

Troyes 2 (Ghazi 24, Boutal 86)
Strasbourg 1 (Echouafni 80) Att: 11,534

Sunday, August 22

Bastia 2 (Laurent 67, Prince 79)
Nantes 1 (Leroy 11) Att: 10,000

Lens 0
Marseille 0 Att: 40,357

Saturday, August 28

Auxerre 2 (Tainio 62, Guivarc'h 77)
Le Havre 1 (De Neef 37) Att: 12,000

Bordeaux 0
Metz 0 Att: 29,400

Marseille 1 (Bakayoko 48)
Bastia 1 (Nee 7) Att: 54,000

Nancy 2 (Cascarino 45, Wiart 90)
Lens 1 (Ismael 53) Att: 10,212

Nantes 3 (Sibierski 42, Monterrubio 61, Olembe 70)
Montpellier 0 Att: 28,761

Sedan 3 (Mionnet 45, N'Diefi 74, Quint 90)
Saint-Etienne 2 (Sarr 6, Aloisio 16) Att: 14,000

Strasbourg 2 (Belloso 30, Echouafni 57)
Rennes 1 (Nonda 11) Att: 16,841

Sunday, August 29

Lyon 1 (Anderson pen 51)
Paris SG 0 Att: 39,541

Monaco 3 (Trezeguet 30, 44, Simone 77)
Troyes 0 Att: 6,000

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monaco	5	3	1	1	12	5	10
Paris SG	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Lyon	5	3	1	1	7	5	10
Auxerre	5	3	1	1	8	7	10
Nantes	5	3	0	2	7	3	9
Strasbourg	5	3	0	2	6	6	9
Bordeaux	5	2	2	1	10	6	8
Marseille	5	1	4	0	7	4	7
Lens	5	2	1	2	3	3	7
Bastia	5	2	1	2	8	9	7
Nancy	5	2	0	3	8	8	6
Sedan	5	2	0	3	8	11	6
Metz	5	1	2	2	4	3	5
Saint-Etienne	5	1	2	2	9	11	5
Rennes	5	1	2	2	6	8	5
Le Havre	5	1	1	3	3	7	4
Montpellier	5	1	1	3	6	11	4
Troyes	5	1	0	4	3	11	3

GERMANY

Friday, August 13

Duisburg 0
Bayer Leverkusen 0 Att: 20,307

Wolfsburg 2 (Banza 75, Nowak 89)
1860 Munich 1 (Thomsen og 17) Att: 18,268

Saturday, August 14

Bayern Munich 2 (Babbel 33, Elber 90)
Hamburg 2 (Kovac 35, Prager 82) Att: 63,000

Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Guie-Mien 37, Fjortoft pen 47, Salou 86)
Unterhaching 0 Att: 40,000

Kaiserslautern 1 (Marschall 65)
Borussia Dortmund 0 Att: 41,500

Schalke 1 (Nemec 45)
Arminia Bielefeld 1 (Labbadia 67) Att: 51,000

Stuttgart 0
Werder Bremen 0 Att: 35,000

Sunday, August 15

Hertha 5 (Ehlers og 12, Daei 33, Wosz 51, Tretschok 61, Deisler 75)
Hansa Rostock 2 (Schneider 6, Arvidsson 67) Att: 66,000

Ulm 1 (Gora pen 48)
Freiburg 1 (Grauer og 2) Att: 22,500

Friday, August 20

Arminia Bielefeld 1 (Meissner 51)
Hertha 1 (Deisler 82) Att: 24,100

Unterhaching 2 (Rraklli pen 68, Straube 80)
Duisburg 0 Att: 8,200

Saturday, August 21

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Reina 77, Moller pen 81)
Wolfsburg 1 (Akpoborie pen 68) Att: 64,500

Freiburg 2 (Sellimi pen 39, Gunes 51)
Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Weber 72, Salou 75, 85) Att: 25,000

Hamburg 3 (Cardoso 5, Butt pen 55, pen 79)
Stuttgart 0 Att: 34,487

1860 Munich 4 (Max 20, 25, Hassler pen 23, Passlack 31)
Ulm 1 (Unsold 17) Att: 44,000

Werder Bremen 0
Schalke 1 (Asamoah 47) Att: 32,740

Sunday, August 22

Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Kirsten 79, Neuville 85)
Bayern Munich 0 Att: 22,000

Hansa Rostock 4 (Lange 5, Sforza og 28, Agali 30, Arvidsson 44)
Kaiserslautern 2 (Marschall 29, Djorkaeff 31) Att: 24,000

Friday, August 27

Kaiserslautern 0
Arminia Bielefeld 2 (Labbadia 51, Meissner 87) Att: 39,600

Schalke 1 (Wilmots 31)
Hamburg 3 (Hollerbach 45, Kovac 54, Hoogma 58) Att: 45,000

Saturday, August 28

Bayern Munich 1 (Santa Cruz 40)
Unterhaching 0 Att: 63,000

Freiburg 3 (Zkitischwili 44, Gunes 80, Ben Slimane 88)
1860 Munich 0 Att: 25,000

Hertha 1 (Aracic 10)
Werder Bremen 1 (Bogdanovic 75) Att: 52,500

Stuttgart 1 (Soldo 26)
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Robson Ponte 44, Beinlich 77) Att: 25,000

Wolfsburg 2 (Weiser 11, Nowak 43)
Hansa Rostock 0 Att: 17,944

Sunday, August 29

Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Salou 24, Guie-Mien 47)
Duisburg 2 (Osthoff 37, Wolters 74) Att: 35,000

Ulm 0
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Bobic 12) Att: 23,000

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hamburg	3	2	1	0	8	3	7
Eintracht	3	2	1	0	8	4	7
Leverkusen	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Wolfsburg	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Dortmund	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Hertha	3	1	2	0	7	4	5
Bielefeld	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Freiburg	3	1	1	1	6	4	4
Bayern Munich	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Schalke	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
1860 Munich	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
Unterhaching	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Hansa Rostock	3	1	0	2	6	9	3
Kaiserslautern	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
Werder Bremen	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Duisburg	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
Ulm	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
Stuttgart	3	0	1	2	1	5	1

HOLLAND

Thursday, August 12

Sparta 0
Willem II 2 (Ceesay 18, Bombarda 20) Att: 6,500

Friday, August 13

Den Bosch 0
Feyenoord 4 (Cruz 21, 48, 59, Tomasson 34) Att: 4,500

Saturday, August 14

Cambuur 1 (Nelisse 2)
Vitesse 1 (Van Hooijdonk 44) Att: 7,500

De Graafschap 0
Roda JC 0 Att: 8,350

Fortuna 1 (Paciorek 66)
AZ 2 (Van Galen 21, 50) Att: 6,600

PSV 4 (Van Bommel 14, Van Nistelrooy 19, 56, 84)
MVV 1 (Janssen 17) Att: 29,000

Sunday, August 15

Ajax 3 (Laudrup 51, Machlas 62, Arveladze 72)
Heerenveen 2 (Talan 23, Hakansson 81) Att: 37,650

RKC 1 (Hoogendorp 65)
Twente 1 (Karnebeek 41) Att: 5,500

Utrecht 1 (Van der Gaag 12)
NEC 0 Att: 11,000

Friday, August 20

MVV 2 (Emerson 41, Perez 85)
Ajax 6 (Knopper 20, 50, Verlaat 24, Witschge 57, Laudrup 60, Dani 75) Att: 9,500

Saturday, August 21

Den Bosch 1 (Michels 42)
De Graafschap 1 (Tumba 78) Att: 4,000

Heerenveen 3 (Talan 21, Samardzic 68, Hakansson 89)
Sparta 1 (Jaliens 78) Att: 13,600

Roda JC 1 (Zafarin 18)
RKC 2 (Schops 36, Hoogendorp 89) Att: 9,000

Twente 4 (Ten Hag 9, Vennegoor of Hesselink 61, 65, 80)
NEC 2 (Pothuizen 13, 42) Att: 11,000

Willem II 2 (Bombarda 60, 90)
Fortuna 2 (Kool 36, Gerritsen 47) Att: 13,500

Sunday, August 22

Feyenoord 4 (Korneev 4, Cairo 49, Kalou 63, 75)
Cambuur 0 Att: 32,500

Vitesse 1 (Van Hooijdonk 35)
PSV 6 (Bruggink 13, 33, Faber 42, Van Nistelrooy pen 49, 82, Khokhlov 76) Att: 25,000

Friday, August 27

Cambuur 0
Ajax 3 (Dani 5, Laudrup 51, Wamberto 87) Att: 10,000

Saturday, August 28

PSV 2 (Nilis 26, Bruggink 90)
Fortuna 1 (Paciorek 19) Att: 27,500

Roda JC 4 (Torma pen 20, pen 75, Van der Luer 26, Peeters 81)
NEC 3 (Peter van Putten 59, De Gier 83, Pothuizen 88) Att: 7,500

Vitesse 6 (Sikora 14, Van Hooijdonk 23, 45, pen 90, Van Hintum 41, Van den Brom 70)
MVV 2 (Kociski 50, Caers 75) Att: 23,000

Willem II 2 (Arts pen 32, Victoria 80)
Den Bosch 1 (Van der Laan pen 69)

Sunday, August 29

Feyenoord 3 (Cruz 3, Kalou 65, Van Vossen 84)
Heerenveen 1 (Nurmela 72) Att: 39,000

RKC 1 (Heesakkers 23)
AZ 2 (Bosman 21, Van Galen 79) Att: 5,300

Utrecht 1 (Van Mol 13)
Twente 0 Att: 12,900

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Feyenoord	3	3	0	0	11	1	9
PSV	3	3	0	0	12	3	9
Ajax	3	3	0	0	12	4	9
Willem II	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
AZ	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Utrecht	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Twente	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Roda JC	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
RKC	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Vitesse	3	1	1	1	8	9	4
Heerenveen	3	1	0	2	6	7	3
De Graafschap	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Fortuna	3	0	1	2	4	6	1
Den Bosch	3	0	1	2	2	7	1
Cambuur	3	0	1	2	1	8	1
Sparta	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
NEC	3	0	0	3	5	9	0
MVV	3	0	0	3	5	16	0

HUNGARY

Aug 14: Nyiregyhaza 2 Debrecen 1; Gyor 4 Diosgyor 0; Zalaegerszeg 4 Siofok 0; Vac 3 Nagykanizsa 4; MTK 3 Tatabanya 0; Haladas 2 Szeged 1; Vasas 2 Kispest Honved 0.
Aug 15: Dunaferr 4 Ujpest 0; Gazszer 3 Ferencvaros 2.
Aug 20: Nagykanizsa 1 MTK 1; Kispest Honved 0 Gazszer 0.
Aug 21: Tatabanya 3 Dunaferr 3; Debrecen 2 Diosgyor 0; Ujpest 4 Nyiregyhaza 0; Szeged 0 Vasas 2; Ferencvaros 1 Zalaegerszeg 0; Siofok 1 Vac 0; Gyor 1 Haladas 0.
Aug 27: Zalaegerszeg 2 Kispest Honved 0.
Aug 28: Debrecen 1 Gyor 0; Nyiregyhaza 1 Tatabanya 1; Dunaferr 2 Nagykanizsa 1; MTK 2 Siofok 1; Gazszer 4 Szeged 1; Vasas 2 Haladas 0.
Aug 29: Diosgyor 4 Ujpest 1; Vac 0 Ferencvaros 2.

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vasas	4	4	0	0	8	1	12
Gazszer	4	3	1	0	8	3	10
Debrecen	4	3	0	1	5	2	9
Zalaegerszeg	4	2	1	1	6	1	7
Dunaferr	4	2	1	1	10	6	7
Gyor	4	2	1	1	6	2	7
MTK	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Ferencvaros	4	2	0	2	6	5	6
Nagykanizsa	4	1	2	1	6	6	5
Tatabanya	4	1	2	1	5	7	5
Nyiregyhaza	4	1	2	1	4	7	5
Kispest Honved	4	1	1	2	2	4	4
Diosgyor	4	1	1	2	6	9	4
Ujpest	3	1	0	2	5	8	3
Haladas	4	1	0	3	2	6	3
Siofok	4	1	0	3	2	7	3
Szeged	4	0	1	3	3	9	1
Vac	4	0	0	4	3	8	0

ITALY

Saturday, August 28

Bologna 0
Torino 0 Att: 30,391

Sunday, August 29

Fiorentina 1 (Chiesa 47)
Bari 0 Att: 35,000

Inter 3 (Vieri 16, 53, 65)
Verona 0 Att: 67,203

Juventus 1 (Inzaghi 31)
Reggina 1 (Kallon 47) Att: 40,000

Lecce 2 (Savino 65, Lucarelli 81)
Milan 2 (Weah 56, Shevchenko 72) Att: 32,080

Perugia 1 (Olive 46)
Parma 1 (Stanic 77) Att: 11,649

Piacenza 1 (Stroppa 82)
Roma 1 (Totti pen 14) Att: 18,000

Venezia 1 (Maniero 71)
Udinese 1 (Muzzi 54) Att: 10,083

ITALIAN SUPER CUP

Milan 1 (Guglielminpietro 54)
Parma 2 (Crespo 66, Boghossian 90) Att: 25,001

NORWAY

Aug 15: Brann 2 Stromsgodset 2; Moss 1 Lillestrom 3; Odd Grenland 2 Tromso 1; Rosenborg 4 Valerenga 2; Skeid 3 Molde 5; Stabaek 1 Kongsvinger 1; Viking 3 Bodo/Glimt 3.
Aug 22: Bodo/Glimt 4 Stabaek 0; Kongsvinger 1 Odd Grenland 0; Lillestrom 2 Skeid 1; Molde 1 Brann 3; Stromsgodset 1 Rosenborg 3; Tromso 1 Moss 1; Valerenga 4 Viking 2.
Aug 25: Brann 3 Tromso 1.
Aug 29: Lillestrom 1 Tromso 2; Moss 3 Kongsvinger 0; Odd Grenland 4 Bodo/Glimt 2; Skeid 1 Brann 2; Stabaek 3 Valerenga 0; Viking 3 Stromsgodset 2; Rosenborg 2 Molde 1.

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	21	16	2	3	61	21	50
Brann	21	14	1	6	39	31	43
Lillestrom	21	13	2	6	51	33	41
Molde	21	13	2	6	40	29	41
Stabaek	21	10	4	7	43	39	34
Odd Grenland	21	10	2	9	31	39	32
Tromso	21	9	4	8	47	37	31
Viking	21	9	3	9	39	36	30
Bodo/Glimt	21	8	4	9	42	44	28
Moss	21	7	2	12	33	38	23
Stromsgodset	21	6	2	13	33	48	20
Valerenga	21	5	3	13	31	47	18
Skeid	21	5	2	14	26	53	17
Kongsvinger	21	5	1	15	28	49	16

POLAND

Aug 14: Odra 0 Amica 2; Petro Plock 2 Zaglebie 1; R Radzionkow 1 LKS 0; Groclin 1 Wisla 2; Pogon 1 R Chorzow 1; Halex 0 Polonia 0.
Aug 15: Legia 1 Lech 1; Widzew 1 Gornik 1.
Aug 21: Legia 1 Odra 1; Amica 2 Petro Plock 1; Zaglebie 1 Widzew 0; Gornik 5 R Radzionkow 0; LKS 1 Groclin 0; Lech 1 Polonia 3.
Aug 22: R Chorzow 3 Halex 0; Wisla 1 Pogon 1.
Aug 25: Polonia 4 R Radzionkow 1.
Aug 28: R Radzionkow 1 Zaglebie 0; Groclin 0 Gornik 2; Pogon 0 LKS 0; Halex 1 Wisla 1; Polonia 0 R Chorzow 2.
Aug 29: Odra 4 Lech 0; Petro Plock 3 Legia 1; Widzew 3 Amica 2.

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
R Chorzow	7	5	2	0	16	4	17
Wisla	7	5	2	0	16	7	17
Polonia	7	4	2	1	13	5	14
Amica	7	4	1	2	13	10	13
Gornik	7	3	3	1	19	10	12
Zaglebie	7	3	2	2	9	8	11
Halex	7	3	2	2	9	10	11
Pogon	7	2	4	1	8	8	10
Petro Plock	7	3	1	3	10	11	10
Legia	7	1	5	1	9	10	8
LKS	6	2	2	2	2	3	8
R Radzionkow	7	2	0	5	4	14	6
Odra	7	1	2	4	8	11	5
Widzew	6	1	2	3	9	13	5
Lech	7	0	2	5	5	14	2
Groclin	7	0	0	7	5	17	0

PORTUGAL

Friday, August 20

Vitoria Setubal 1 (Sergio Joao 16)
Guimaraes 1 (Edmilson 49)

Saturday, August 21

Boavista 1 (Ahinful 90)
FC Porto 1 (Jardel 2)

Santa Clara 2 (Gamboa 22, 42)
Sporting Lisbon 2 (Edmilson 53, Acosta 64)

Sunday, August 22

Alverca 3 (Caju 6, 52, Milkinovic 22)
Sporting Braga 2 (Toni 73, Odair 88)

Estrela Amadora 0
Belenenses 3 (Lazaro og 59, Cabral 64, Pataca 71)

Farense 2 (Hassan Nader 44, Dieb 71)
Uniao Leiria 1 (Derlei 35)

Gil Vicente 3 (Guga 65, Ricardo 74, Jaiminho 89)
Campomaiorense 0

Rio Ave 1 (Hugo Henrique 29)
Benfica 1 (Sergio Nunes 9)

Salgueiros 1 (Edu 63)
Maritimo 0

Friday, August 27

Guimaraes 3 (Edmilson 17, 44, Rego 37)
Farense 0

Saturday, August 28

FC Porto 0
Alverca 0

Sunday, August 29

Belenenses 1 (Fernando Mendes 75)
Gil Vicente 1 (Ricardo Nascimento pen 25)

Benfica 1 (Nuno Gomes 54)
Salgueiros 0

Campomaiorense 0
Boavista 1 (Emanuel 87)

Maritimo 0
Santa Clara 0

Sporting Braga 0
Rio Ave 1 (Armando 10)

Uniao Leiria 1 (Derlei 65)
Estrela Amadora 1 (Eric Gaucho 45)

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guimaraes	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Gil Vicente	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Belenenses	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Alverca	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Boavista	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Rio Ave	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Benfica	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Salgueiros	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Farense	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Santa Clara	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
FC Porto	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Sporting Lisbon	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Vitoria Setubal	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Uniao Leiria	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Maritimo	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Estrela Amadora	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
Sporting Braga	2	0	0	2	2	4	0
Campomaiorense	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

PORTUGUESE SUPER CUP

Aug 7 - Aveiro
Beira Mar 1 (Fary 67)
FC Porto 2 (Domingos 68, Esquerdinha 73)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000

Aug 15 - Oporto
FC Porto 3 (Jardel 5, 83, Lobao og 87)
Beira Mar 1 (Oscar pen 21) Att: 14,000
FC Porto 5-2 on agg

ROMANIA

Aug 13: Brasov 3 Otelul 0.
Aug 14: Rapid 1 Arges 0; Onesti 1 Ceahlaul 1; Farul 3 Bacau 0; Petrolul 2 Extensiv 0; Rocar 3 Gloria 1; Resita 2 Astra 5; U Craiova 1 Dinamo 2; National 3 Steaua 0.
Aug 20: Arges 3 National 1.
Aug 21: Otelul 2 Rapid 0; Steaua 3 Onesti 0; Extensiv 2 Rocar 1; Ceahlaul 2 Farul 1; Gloria 2 Brasov 0; Bacau 1 Resita 0.
Aug 22: Dinamo 4 Petrolul 1; Astra 2 U Craiova 0.
Aug 28: Resita 1 Ceahlaul 3; Brasov 2 Extensiv 1; National 1 Otelul 1; Onesti 1 Arges 2; Rapid 2 Gloria 1; Rocar 2 Petrolul 1; U Craiova 2 Bacau 3.
Aug 29: Astra 1 Dinamo 2; Farul 2 Steaua 1.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	7	7	0	0	24	3	21
Arges	7	5	0	2	10	5	15
Otelul	7	4	1	2	17	11	13
Ceahlaul	6	4	1	1	11	8	13
Bacau	7	3	3	1	10	8	12
Rapid	6	3	2	1	7	5	11
Astra	6	3	1	2	12	8	10
Farul	7	3	1	3	11	9	10
Rocar	7	3	0	4	10	10	9
Gloria	7	3	0	4	12	14	9
Petrolul	7	3	0	4	11	13	9
Steaua	7	3	0	4	10	15	9
National	6	2	2	2	10	9	8
Brasov	7	2	1	4	8	9	7
Onesti	7	2	1	4	5	11	7
Extensiv	7	2	0	5	8	19	6
U Craiova	7	1	1	5	6	12	4
Resita	7	0	2	5	7	20	2

RUSSIA

Aug 14: Rostselmash 0 Shinnik 0; Rotor 2 Zenit 2; Zhemchuzhina 1 Dinamo 0; Saturn 2 Kryliya Sovetov 0; Lokomotiv NN 2 Alaniya 1; Torpedo 3 Uralan 1.
Aug 15: CSKA 0 Spartak 4; Lokomotiv M 2 Chernomorets 1.
Aug 21: Chernomorets 2 CSKA 1; Zenit 1 Rostselmash 0; Shinnik 1 Torpedo 0; Uralan 3 Lokomotiv NN 0; Alaniya 2 Saturn 0; Kryliya Sovetov 4 Zhemchuzhina 2; Dinamo 2 Lokomotiv M 4.
Aug 24: Uralan 2 Rostselmash 1.
Aug 28: Lokomotiv NN 1 Shinnik 0; Torpedo 1 Zenit 0; Rotor 1 CSKA 1; Zhemchuzhina 2 Alaniya 0; Saturn 2 Uralan 0; Dinamo 0 Chernomorets 1.
Aug 29: Rostselmash 0 Spartak 3; Lokomotiv M 2 Kryliya Sovetov 0.

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spartak	25	18	5	2	57	18	59
Lokomotiv M	22	15	4	3	50	23	49
Torpedo	23	10	9	4	29	25	39
CSKA	22	10	8	4	38	21	38
Dinamo	22	9	5	8	35	32	32
Alaniya	20	9	4	7	40	28	31
Zenit	22	7	8	7	27	26	29
Lokomotiv NN	22	8	4	10	25	34	28
Rostselmash	21	7	6	8	21	25	27
Saturn	23	6	6	11	22	32	24
Rotor	21	6	5	10	28	38	23
Chernomorets	22	6	5	11	21	35	23
Kryliya Sovetov	23	6	4	13	30	40	22
Uralan	22	6	4	12	18	30	22
Zhemchuzhina	22	4	8	10	19	36	20
Shinnik	22	4	7	11	14	31	19

SCOTLAND

Saturday, August 14

Aberdeen 0
Dundee 2 (Falconer 29, 39) Att: 8,174

Hibernian 1 (Latapy pen 42)
Hearts 1 (McSwegan 79) Att: 16,976

Sunday, August 15

Dundee Utd 2 (Easton 14, Dodds 42)
Celtic 1 (Berkovic 82) Att: 12,735

Rangers 4 (Mols 41, 45, 69, 79)
Motherwell 1 (McCulloch 90) Att: 45,264

St Johnstone 2 (Bollan 52, Lowndes 58)
Kilmarnock 0 Att: 4,681

Saturday, August 21

Dundee 1 (Sharp 86)
Celtic 2 (Mahe 68, Larsson 88) Att: 10,531

Rangers 4 (Reyna 20, Van Bronckhorst 50, Wallace 59, Vidmar 75)
Dundee Utd 1 (De Vos 87) Att: 48,849

Kilmarnock 0
Motherwell 1 (Adams 33) Att: 7,732

St Johnstone 1 (Lowndes 36)
Hibernian 1 (McAnespie og 69) Att: 6,163

Sunday, August 22

Hearts 3 (McSwegan 44, 50, 85)
Aberdeen 0 Att: 12,803

Saturday, August 28

Hibernian 0
Rangers 1 (Johansson 69) Att: 15,585

Motherwell 0
Dundee 2 (Annand 16, Falconer 83) Att: 6,278

Sunday, August 29

Aberdeen 0
St Johnstone 3 (Thomas 26, Weir 68, Lowndes 75) Att: 9,600

Celtic 4 (Viduka 17, Larsson 36, Berkovic 70, 72)
Hearts 0 Att: 59,607

Dundee Utd 0
Kilmarnock 0 Att: 6,621

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	5	5	0	0	15	3	15
Celtic	5	4	0	1	15	3	12
Dundee Utd	5	2	2	1	7	8	8
St Johnstone	5	2	1	2	7	8	7
Hearts	5	2	1	2	8	10	7
Dundee	5	2	0	3	9	8	6
Hibernian	5	1	3	1	8	8	6
Motherwell	5	1	2	2	6	10	5
Kilmarnock	5	1	1	3	3	5	4
Aberdeen	5	0	0	5	0	15	0

SPAIN

Saturday, August 21

Athletic Bilbao 1 (J Etxeberria 46)
Betis Sevilla 0 Att: 36,000

Mallorca 1 (Carlos 52)
Real Madrid 2 (Morientes 89, Raul 90) Att: 23,000

Valencia 1 (Mendieta pen 75)
Racing Santander 2 (Djukic og 20, Salva pen 63) Att: 47,000

Sunday, August 22

Atletico Madrid 0
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Hernandez 41, Ferron 50) Att: 35,000

Barcelona 2 (Figo 75, Dani 77)
Zaragoza 0 Att: 65,000

La Coruna 4 (Makaay 30, 45, 58, Djalminha 33)
Alaves 1 (Morales 12) Att: 22,000

Malaga 1 (Catanha 74)
Espanyol 0 Att: 30,000

Numancia 1 (Ruben Navarro 41)
Valladolid 0 Att: 10,000

Oviedo 1 (Danjou 56)
Celta Vigo 0 Att: 10,357

Sevilla 2 (Juan Carlos 19, Tsartas 34)
Real Sociedad 2 (De Pedro 7, pen 52) Att: 35,000

Saturday, August 28

Real Sociedad 4 (De Paula 60, 90, Bonilla 66, 76)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Solari 9) Att: 25,000

Sunday, August 29

Alaves 2 (Julio Salinas 64, 84)
Malaga 1 (Catanha 9) Att: 17,000

Betis Sevilla 0
La Coruna 0 Att: 40,000

Celtic Vigo 2 (McCarthy 23, Makelele 78)
Sevilla 1 (Tsartas 74) Att: 26,000

Espanyol 3 (Benitez 11, De Lucas 13, Posse 51)
Valencia 2 (Mendieta pen 45, Sanchez 90) Att: 22,400

Racing Santander 1 (Salva pen 79)
Barcelona 2 (Rivaldo 39, Cocu 43) Att: 20,000

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Luis Cembranos 65, Canabal 87)
Mallorca 1 (Carreras 43) Att: 5,000

Real Madrid 4 (Ivan Rocha og 46, Savio 57, McManaman 69, Hierro pen 87)
Numancia 1 (Moran 89) Att: 70,000

Valladolid 1 (Victor 11)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 11,000

Zaragoza 4 (Jamelli 5, Vellisca 66, Marcos Vales 69, Milosevic 89)
Oviedo 0 Att: 12,000

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
Barcelona	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Rayo Vallecano	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Real Sociedad	2	1	1	0	6	3	4
La Coruna	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Zaragoza	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Racing Santander	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Espanyol	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Celta Vigo	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Malaga	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Athletic Bilbao	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Valladolid	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Alaves	2	1	0	1	3	5	3
Numancia	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Oviedo	2	1	0	1	1	4	3
Sevilla	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Betis Sevilla	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Valencia	2	0	0	2	3	5	0
Mallorca	2	0	0	2	2	4	0
Atletico Madrid	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

SPANISH SUPER CUP – 2ND LEG

Sunday, August 15

Barcelona 3 (Kluivert 14, 62, R De Boer 21)
Valencia 3 (Albelda 16, Sanchez 53, Farinos 66) Att: 60,000
Valencia 4-3 on agg

SWEDEN

Aug 9: Elfsborg 2 Norrkoping 1; Orgryte 0 Djurgardens 1; Malmo 2 Hammarby 0.
Aug 15: IFK Gothenburg 1 Orgryte 0; Kalmar 1 Malmo 0; Hammarby 1 Halmstads 0; Djurgardens 1 Vastra Frolunda 1; Norrkoping 1 Orebro 0; Helsingborgs 0 AIK 2.
Aug 19: Trelleborgs 1 Elfsborg 2.
Aug 21: AIK 1 Vastra Frolunda 0; Helsingborgs 1 Malmo 0.
Aug 22: Elfsborg 1 Orgryte 2; IFK Gothenburg 2 Kalmar 0.
Aug 23: Halmstads 2 Trelleborgs 2; Norrkoping 3 Hammarby 2; Orebro 1 Djurgardens 1.
Aug 29: Trelleborgs 0 Norrkoping 4; Halmstads 1 Kalmar 0; Orgryte 2 Hammarby 1.
Aug 30: Malmo 3 Orebro 1; Vastra Frolunda 1 IFK Gothenburg 2; Elfsborg 1 Helsingborgs 1; Djurgardens 0 AIK 0.

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AIK	19	12	4	3	31	10	40
Helsingborgs	19	11	3	5	28	18	36
Orgryte	19	10	5	4	32	15	35
Halmstads	19	10	4	5	35	16	34
IFK Gothenburg	19	8	5	6	20	24	29
Orebro	19	8	2	9	20	24	26
Kalmar	19	8	2	9	24	29	26
Trelleborgs	19	6	5	8	28	32	23
Norrkoping	19	6	5	8	24	28	23
Vastra Frolunda	19	5	6	8	21	27	21
Malmo	19	6	3	10	22	29	21
Elfsborg	19	5	5	9	29	38	20
Djurgardens	19	4	6	9	18	30	18
Hammarby	19	4	5	10	21	33	17

SWITZERLAND

Aug 14: Yverdon 3 Delemont 1; Aarau 1 Lausanne 3; Neuchatel Xamax 3 Servette 2.
Aug 15: Basle 2 Lucerne 0; Lugano 1 Zurich 1; Grasshopper 2 St Gallen 2.
Aug 20: Servette 3 Yverdon 1.
Aug 21: St Gallen 2 Lugano 1; Zurich 0 Aarau 1; Lausanne 1 Basle 0; Lucerne 1 Neuchatel Xamax 1.
Aug 22: Delemont 2 Grasshopper 1.
Aug 24: St Gallen 1 Basel 1.
Aug 28: St Gallen 2 Delemont 1; Yverdon 3 Lucerne 0; Lugano 4 Aarau 1; Neuchatel Xamax 1 Lausanne 2.
Aug 29: Basle 0 Zurich 0; Grasshopper 4 Servette 2.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Gallen	10	6	3	1	18	10	21
Grasshopper	10	4	4	2	19	11	16
Yverdon	9	4	3	2	14	8	15
Basle	10	3	6	1	11	6	15
Lausanne	10	4	3	3	12	9	15
Servette	9	4	1	4	16	15	13
Neuchatel Xamax	10	2	6	2	15	17	12
Lucerne	10	3	3	4	9	13	12
Aarau	10	3	2	5	12	21	11
Lugano	10	2	4	4	14	14	10
Zurich	10	1	5	4	6	13	8
Delemont	10	2	2	6	13	22	8

TURKEY

Aug 13: Altay 0 Goztepe 0.
Aug 14: Istanbulspor 1 Bursaspor 0; Fenerbahce 1 Kocaelispor 1.
Aug 15: Vanspor 0 Erzurum 2; Trabzonspor 1 Galatasaray 2; Gaziantepspor 1 Antalyaspor 2; Denizlispor 1 Genclerbirligi 3; Besiktas 4 Samsunspor 0; Ankaragucu 0 Adanaspor 0.

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Genclerbirligi	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Antalyaspor	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Altay	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Fenerbahce	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Besiktas	2	1	0	1	4	1	3
Erzurum	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Galatasaray	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Gaziantepspor	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Trabzonspor	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Istanbulspor	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Denizlispor	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Samsunspor	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Kocaelispor	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Goztepe	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Adanaspor	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Ankaragucu	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Vanspor	2	0	0	2	2	5	0
Bursaspor	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

UKRAINE

Aug 15: Prykarpattya 0 Metalurh Z 0; Metalurh M 2 Vorskla 1; Chornomorets 0 Metalurh D 1; Karpaty 3 Zirka 0; Metalist 2 Tavriya 1.
Aug 22: Dynamo 1 Metalurh D 0; Zirka 0 Chornomorets 0; Shakhtar 1 Prykarpattya 0; Metalurh Z 2 Metalurh M 1; Vorskla 4 Nyva 2; Tavriya 4 Karpaty 1; Kryvbas 2 CSKA 1; Dnipro 1 Metalist 0.
Aug 25: Vorskla 3 Metalist 1.
Aug 29: Nyva 0 Metalurg Z 3; CSKA 1 Vorskla 1; Karpaty 4 Dnipro 0; Chernomorets 1 Tavriya 2; Metalurg D 2 Zirka 0.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kryvbas	7	6	1	0	15	5	19
Vorskla	10	5	2	3	19	12	17
Dynamo	6	5	1	0	13	4	16
Metalurg Z	8	5	1	2	12	8	16
Metalist	9	5	1	3	11	10	16
Karpaty	9	5	0	4	17	11	15
Metalurg D	9	4	2	3	9	9	14
Shakhtar	7	4	1	2	7	2	13
Tavriya	9	4	1	4	14	13	13
Metalurg M	8	4	0	4	16	10	12
CSKA	8	3	2	3	10	6	11
Nyva	8	1	3	4	9	13	6
Dnipro	8	1	2	5	5	17	5
Prykarpattya	8	0	4	4	4	11	4
Zirka	9	0	4	5	4	16	4
Chernomorets	9	1	1	7	3	21	4

YUGOSLAVIA

Aug 21: Hajduk B 1 Partizan 2; Proleter 2 Sutjeska 1; Vojvodina 2 Radnicki N 0; Hajduk K 3 Spartak 0; Obilic 3 Radnicki K 0; Mogren 1 OFK 0; Sartid 1 Rad 1; Milicionar 2 Buducnost 1; Borac 3 Zemun 2; Red Star 0 Zeleznik 0.

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Proleter	3	3	0	0	8	2	9
Zeleznik	3	2	1	0	7	3	7
Hajduk K	3	2	0	1	5	2	6
Vojvodina	3	2	0	1	4	1	6
Obilic	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Partizan	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Rad	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Sutjeska	3	1	1	1	7	7	4
Zemun	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
Borac	3	1	1	1	8	9	4
OFK	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Milicionar	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Hajduk B	3	1	0	2	8	7	3
Radnicki K	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Spartak	3	1	0	2	1	6	3
Red Star	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Buducnost	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Sartid	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Mogren	3	0	2	1	3	5	2
Cukaricki	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Pristina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Radnicki N	3	0	0	3	2	9	0

SOUTH AMERICA

MERCOSUR CUP

Group A

Aug 3 - Belo Horizonte
Cruzeiro (Bra) 2 (Muller 11, Geovanni 42)
River Plate (Arg) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Da Rosa (Uru)

Aug 5 - Sao Paulo
Palmeiras (Bra) 7 (Euller 12, 36, Oseas 15, 27, Paulo Nunes 45, Rogerio 48, 75)
Racing Club (Arg) 0
HT: 5-0. **Ref:** Pozo (Chl)

Aug 12 - Buenos Aires
River Plate 4 (Franco 44, Cardetti 74, 76, Cuevas 75)
Racing Club 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Sanchez (Arg)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Palmeiras	2	1	1	0	10	3	4
River Plate	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Cruzeiro	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Racing Club	2	0	0	2	0	11	0

Group B

Aug 4 - Avellaneda
Independiente (Arg) 1 (Cambiasso 85)
Velez Sarsfield (Arg) 1 (Camps pen 87)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Madorran (Arg)

Aug 10 - Buenos Aires
Velez Sarsfield 0
Corinthians (Bra) 3 (Ricardinho 43, Fernando Bahiano 79, 88)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Grance (Par)

Aug 12 - Porto Alegre
Gremio (Bra) 2 (Ronaldinho 60, Magrao 84)
Independiente 0
HT: 0-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gremio	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Independiente	3	1	1	1	3	5	4
Corinthians	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Velez Sarsfield	3	0	2	1	3	5	2

Group C

Aug 4 - Buenos Aires
San Lorenzo (Arg) 1 (A Lopez 15)
Boca Juniors (Arg) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Martin (Arg)

Aug 11 - Sao Paulo
Sao Paulo (Bra) 3 (Wilson 23, Franca 34, Souza 85)
Universidad Catolica (Chl) 0
HT: 2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boca Juniors	2	1	0	1	5	2	3
San Lorenzo	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Sao Paulo	2	1	0	1	4	5	3
U Catolica	2	1	0	1	1	3	3

Group D

Aug 3 - Rio de Janeiro
Vasco da Gama (Bra) 1 (Alex Oliveira 89)
Nacional (Uru) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Aros (Chl)

Aug 11 - Asuncion
Cerro Porteno (Par) 2 (Roman 64, Caballero 84)
Penarol (Uru) 2 (Cedres 31, M De Souza 52)
HT: 0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Penarol	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Nacional	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Vasco da Gama	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Cerro Porteno	2	0	1	1	3	5	1

Group E

Aug 4 - Santiago
Colo Colo (Chl) 0
Flamengo (Bra) 4 (Rodrigo Mendes 12, 44, Romario 32, Fabeo 81)
HT: 0-3. **Ref:** Sanchez (Arg)

Aug 4 - Asuncion
Olimpia (Par) 2
Universidad de Chile 1

Aug 12 - Santiago
Colo Colo 1 (C Montecinos 76)
Olimpia 0
HT: 0-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Flamengo	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Colo Colo	3	2	0	1	3	4	6
Olimpia	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
U de Chile	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

Group winners and three second-placed teams with best records qualify for quarter-finals

MERCONORTE CUP

Group A

Aug 18 - Medellin
Atletico Nacional (Col) 4 (Mackenzie 30, 66, Munoz 48, Moreno 79)
El Nacional (Ecu) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,200

Aug 20 - Lima
Universitario (Per) 1 (Del Solar 56)
America (Col) 2 (Castillo 57, Vargas 82)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Borosano (Ven)

Group B

Aug 4 - La Paz
The Strongest (Bol) 0
Millonarios (Col) 2

Aug 5 - Lima
Alianza Lima (Per) 1
Barcelona (Ecu) 0

Group C

Aug 11 - Caracas
Caracas (Ven) 2
Emelec (Ecu) 1

Aug 12 - Lima
Sporting Cristal (Per) 1
Independiente Santa Fe (Col) 1

ARGENTINA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

August 6-9

Argentinos Juniors 3 (Bennett 29, 86, Osorio 88)
Estudiantes 0

Boca Juniors 3 (Palermo 16, 46, Cagna 41)
Independiente 0

Gimnasia J 1 (Aguirrez 46)
Rosario Central 2 (Pizzi pen 56, 60)

Lanus 0
Belgrano Cordoba 0

Newell's Old Boys 1 (Fuentes 4)
San Lorenzo 2 (A Lopez 2, Estevez 88)

River Plate 4 (Aimar, Saviola, Angel 2)
Instituto Cordoba 1 (Jimenez)

Talleres Cordoba 1 (Astudillo 19)
Racing Club 1 (Panegas 54)

Union Santa Fe 3 (Barreto 47, 59, Fernandez 53)
Ferro Carril Oeste 0

Velez Sarsfield 0
Colon Santa Fe 0

August 13-16

Belgrano Cordoba 0
Argentinos Juniors 0

Colon Santa Fe 2 (Gorostidi 39, Enria 90)
Gimnasia J 0

Estudiantes 4 (Quatrocchi 2, pen 68, Agoglia 43, Yaque 45)
Velez Sarsfield 2 (Quatrocchi og 34, Morigi 61)

Ferro Carril Oeste 1 (Alfaro Moreno 17)
Gimnasia LP 3 (Cancelarich og 45, Alonso 64, Messera 68)

Independiente 1 (Cambiasso 50)
Lanus 2 (Vilallonga 45, Klimowicz 81)

Instituto Cordoba 1 (Jimenez 77)
Newell's Old Boys 1 (Real 42)

Rosario Central 1 (E Gonzalez 27)
River Plate 2 (Saviola 43, Aimar 66)

San Lorenzo 3 (I Cordoba pen 13, Romeo 56, Tuzzio 61)
Union Santa Fe 1 (Silvera 80)

Wednesday, August 18

Boca Juniors 1 (Palermo 26)
Racing Club 1 (Peralta 31)

August 20-23

Argentinos Juniors 2 (Osorio 62, 78)
Independiente 2 (J Calderon 27, Marioni 45)

Gimnasia J 2 (Bisconti 49, Balvorin 79)
Estudiantes 1 (Zapata 69)

Gimnasia LP 1 (Alonso 90)
San Lorenzo 2 (Franco 17, I Cordoba 60)

Lanus 1 (Fernandez Di Alesio 28)
Boca Juniors 4 (Palermo 46, 48, 68, Barros Schelotto 79)

Newell's Old Boys 1 (Real 64)
Rosario Cental 1 (E Gonzalez 49)

Racing Club 2 (Delgado 6, pen 69)
Chacarita Juniors 2 (Schiavi 14, R Capria 59)

River Plate 2 (Saviola 59, Estrada 71)
Colon Santa Fe 2 (Enria 24, Goristigi 57)

Talleres Cordoba 2 (Gigena 63, Marzo 80)
Ferro Carril Oeste 0

Union Santa Fe 0
Instituto Cordoba 2 (Castro 56, Jimenez pen 60)

Velez Sarsfield 3 (Bardaro 41, D Husain 64, Alarcon og 67)
Belgrano Cordoba 0

ARGENTINA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
San Lorenzo	3	3	0	0	7	3	9
Boca Juniors	3	2	1	0	8	2	7
River Plate	3	2	1	0	8	4	7
Argentinos Juniors	3	1	2	0	5	2	5
Colon Santa Fe	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Talleres Cordoba	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Velez Sarsfield	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Rosario Central	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Instituto Cordoba	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Lanus	3	1	1	1	3	5	4
Gimnasia LP	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Racing Club	3	0	3	0	4	4	3
Union Santa Fe	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Estudiantes	3	1	0	2	5	7	3
Gimnasia J	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
Newell's Old Boys	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Belgrano Cordoba	3	0	2	1	0	3	2
Chacarita Juniors	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Independiente	3	0	1	2	3	7	1
Ferro Carril Oeste	3	0	0	3	1	8	0

BOLIVIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 7: Real Potosi 2 Blooming 1; Oriente 2 Union Central 1.
Aug 8: Guabira 4 Destroyers 1; The Strongest 3 Jorge Wilstermann 2; Independiente 1 San Jose 0; Santa Cruz 0 Bolivar 0.
Aug 11: Destroyers 1 Blooming 4; San Jose 0 Bolivar 2; The Strongest 0 Real Potosi 1; Union Central 1 Independiente 4; Jorge Wilstermann 2 Guabira 1.
Aug 12: Oriente 1 Santa Cruz 0.
Aug 15: Blooming 1 Jorge Wilstermann 0; Bolivar 4 Union Central 2; Guabira 1 The Strongest 1; Independiente 5 Oriente 0; Real Potosi 3 Destroyers
Aug 21: Union Central 2 Destroyers 0; Santa Cruz 1 Guabira 0.
Aug 22: Oriente 0 Blooming 0; Real Potosi 1 Independiente 0; San Jose 5 Jorge Wilstermann 3; The Strongest 2 Bolivar 2.

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Potosi	4	4	0	0	7	2	12
Blooming	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
The Strongest	4	1	2	1	6	6	5
Guabira	4	1	1	2	6	5	4
J Wilstermann	4	1	0	3	7	10	3
Destroyers	4	0	0	4	3	13	0

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Independiente	4	3	0	1	10	2	9
Bolivar	4	2	2	0	8	4	8
Santa Cruz	4	2	1	1	3	1	7
Oriente	4	2	1	1	3	6	7
San Jose	4	1	0	3	5	8	3
Union Central	4	1	0	3	6	10	31

BRAZIL

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 4: Sao Paulo 6 Botafogo RJ 1; Guarani 0 Corinthians 2.
Aug 7: Ponte Preta 1 Botafogo RJ 1; Santos 0 Vitoria 0; Coritiba 1 Botafogo SP 1.
Aug 8: Flamengo 0 Parana 1; Gama 0 Guarani 1; Sport Recife 1 Atletico MG 1; Palmeiras 2 Atletico PR 2; Cruzeiro 3 Internacional 1.
Aug 11: Atletico MG 2 Palmeiras 0; Internacional 1 Flamengo 2.
Aug 14: Atletico PR 3 Santos 0; Vitoria 0 Gremio 2.
Aug 15: Vasco da Gama 2 Botafogo RJ 1; Botafogo SP 1 Gama 3; Parana 1 Sport Recife 0; Portuguesa 2 Sao Paulo 1; Guarani 1 Juventude 0; Coritiba 2 Cruzeiro 2.
Aug 18: Cruzeiro 2 Sao Paulo 1; Gremio 0 Vasco da Gama 0; Flamengo 2 Coritiba 1; Botafogo RJ 1 Atletico MG 5; Gama 0 Santos 0; Corinthians 5 Vitoria 1; Sport Recife 1 Portuguesa 0; Botafogo SP 1 Palmeiras 1; Ponte Preta 0 Guarani 0; Parana 2 Juventude 2.
Aug 21: Botafogo RJ 2 Corinthians 4; Sport Recife 0 Flamengo 1; Juventude 1 Gremio 1.
Aug 22: Vasco da Gama 3 Vitoria 1; Palmeiras 0 Gama 2; Sao Paulo 1 Botafogo SP 0; Coritiba 0 Portuguesa 0; Santos 1 Guarani 2; Ponte Preta 1 Parana 0; Cruzeiro 3 Atletico PR 1; Internacional 1 Atletico MG 0.

BRAZIL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Corinthians	5	5	0	0	19	6	15
Cruzeiro	6	4	2	0	14	6	14
Guarani	7	4	1	2	6	5	13
Flamengo	6	4	0	2	8	6	12
Atletico MG	6	3	1	2	11	8	10
Sao Paulo	6	3	0	3	16	9	9
Coritiba	6	2	3	1	8	5	9
Vasco da Gama	4	2	2	0	5	2	8
Ponte Preta	5	2	2	1	4	2	8
Gremio	5	2	2	1	5	4	8
Santos	6	2	2	2	6	7	8
Atletico PR	5	2	1	2	10	9	7
Gama	6	2	1	3	7	8	7
Portuguesa	5	2	1	2	5	6	7
Parana	5	2	1	2	4	5	7
Sport Recife	6	1	3	2	2	3	6
Palmeiras	6	1	2	3	7	10	5
Botafogo SP	6	1	2	3	8	12	5
Vitoria	6	1	1	4	4	13	4
Internacional	5	1	0	4	4	9	3
Juventude	5	0	3	2	4	7	3
Botafogo RJ	7	0	2	5	7	22	2

CHILE

Aug 7: Palestino 1 Colo Colo 1; Coquimbo Unido 0 Cobreloa 0; Dep Iquique 1 Audax Italiano 1.
Aug 8: U Catolica 2 Dep La Serena 0; O'Higgins 2 Puerto Montt 2; Cobresal 0 Santiago Morning 2; Dep Concepcion 1 Huachipato 3; U de Chile 1 Rangers 0.
Aug 14: Cobreloa 0 U Catolica 2; Rangers 2 Cobresal 0; Santiago Morning 2 Dep Concepcion 4.
Aug 15: Colo Colo 2 Coquimbo Unido 1; Audax Italiano 1 U de Chile 2; Puerto Montt 1 Palestino 3; Huachipato 2 O'Higgins 1; Dep La Serena 2 Dep Iquique 0.
Aug 21: Cobreloa 1 Colo Colo 1; U de Chile 3 Dep La Serena 0; Dep Concepcion 2 Rangers 1.
Aug 22: U Catolica 4 Dep Iquique 1; Cobresal 0 Audax Italiano 0; Palestino 0 Huachipato 1; O'Higgins 1 Santiago Morning 0; Coquimbo Unido 4 Puerto Montt 3.

CHILE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U de Chile	23	18	4	1	48	19	58
U Catolica	23	15	5	3	54	24	50
Cobreloa	23	11	8	4	48	23	41
Colo Colo	23	11	7	5	34	25	40
Huachipato	23	9	7	7	35	32	34
Palestino	23	9	4	10	42	40	31
Santiago Morning	23	9	4	10	30	31	31
Cobresal	23	8	6	9	36	36	30
Dep Concepcion	23	8	6	9	33	33	30
Dep Iquique	23	7	7	9	29	34	28
Audax Italiano	23	6	8	9	25	26	26
Puerto Montt	23	6	7	10	37	42	25
Coquimbo Unido	23	5	8	10	37	59	23
O'Higgins	23	5	5	13	27	49	20
Dep La Serena	23	3	9	11	26	47	18
Rangers	23	4	5	14	20	41	17

COLOMBIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 8: Indep Medellin 2 Dep Pasto 0; Tulua 2 At Nacional 1; Indep Santa Fe 1 Envigado 1; At Huila 1 America 1; Dep Cali 0 Once Caldas 0; Tolima 0 At Junior 0; Union Santa Marta 1 Millonarios 1; Bucaramanga 2 Quindio 2.
Aug 15: Millonarios 2 Union Santa Marta 0; America 1 At Huila 1; Nacional 0 Tulua 0; Envigado 2 Indep Santa Fe 1; At Junior 1 Tolima 0; Once Caldas 3 Dep Cali 0; Quindio 1 Bucaramanga 1; Dep Pasto 2 Indep Medellin 1.
Aug 22: Indep Medellin 1 America 0; Union Santa Marta 1 At Nacional 2; Dep Cali 4 Envigado 0; Millonarios 1 Tulua 1; Dep Pasto 3 At Huila 2; Quindio 2 Tolima 1; Bucaramanga 2 At Junior 0; Once Caldas 0 Santa Fe 0.

COLOMBIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep Pasto	5	4	0	1	9	5	12
At Junior	5	3	1	1	4	2	10
Indep Medellin	5	3	0	2	8	6	9
Millonarios	5	2	3	0	7	3	9
Tulua	5	2	3	0	6	4	9
Dep Cali	5	2	2	1	8	5	8
Quindio	5	2	2	1	8	8	8
Envigado	5	2	2	1	6	8	8
At Nacional	5	2	1	2	7	6	7
Once Caldas	5	1	3	1	7	5	6
Dep Cali	5	1	3	1	5	4	6
Bucaramanga	5	1	2	2	6	6	5
Tolima	5	1	1	3	5	7	4
Indep Santa Fe	5	0	4	1	5	6	4
At Huila	5	0	2	3	5	11	2
Union Santa Marta	5	0	1	4	4	11	1

ECUADOR

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 8: Dep Quito 4 Audaz Octubrino 0; Emelec 3 Olmedo 1; Macara 3 Espoli 2; Delfin 2 LDU 1; Aucas 2 El Nacional 0; Dep Cuenca 0 Barcelona 0.
Aug 15: El Nacional 2 Macara 1; Barcelona 2 Delfin 1; LDU 1 Dep Quito 0; Espoli 6 Dep Cuenca 1; Aucas 2 Olmedo 2; Audaz Octubrino 1 Emelec 2.

OPENING - FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
El Nacional	22	12	8	2	34	12	44
Emelec	22	12	2	8	40	31	38
LDU	22	12	2	8	31	27	38
Barcelona	22	10	5	7	25	24	35
Macara	22	9	5	8	28	30	32
Olmedo	22	7	10	5	28	29	31
Espoli	22	9	3	10	38	29	30
Delfin	22	8	5	9	27	35	29
Dep Quito	22	7	6	9	32	29	27
Dep Cuenca	22	7	6	9	25	33	27
Aucas	22	6	3	13	26	33	21
Audaz Octubrino	22	5	1	16	16	38	16

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 21-22: Dep Quito 3 Audaz Octubrino 1; Macara 3 El Nacional 1; Emelec 1 Espoli 2; Dep Cuenca 0 Aucas 0; Delfin 3 Barcelona 0; LDU 1 Olmedo 0.

PARAGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 8: Olimpia 2 Colegiales 1; 12 de Octubre 1 Sol de America 1; Resistencia 0 San Lorenzo 0; Presidente Hayes 1 Cerro Cora 1; Sportivo Luqueno 3 Cerro Porteno 1.
Aug 15: Cerro Porteno 2 Presidente Hayes 0; 12 de Octubre 2 Resistencia 0; Sol de America 2 Cerro Cora 1; Guarani 1 San Lorenzo 1; Colegiales 2 Sportivo Luqueno 1.
Aug 22: Guarani 2 Cerro Cora 2; Olimpia 1 Presidente Hayes 1; Sol de America 0 Colegiales 0; 12 de Octubre 1 San Lorenzo 1; Cerro Porteno 8 Resistencia 1.

PARAGUAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cerro Porteno	4	2	1	1	11	4	7
Sportivo Luqueno	4	2	1	1	10	6	7
12 de Octubre	5	1	4	0	5	3	7
Olimpia	4	1	3	0	5	4	6
Sol de America	5	1	3	1	3	3	6
Presidente Hayes	5	1	3	1	3	4	6
San Lorenzo	5	0	5	0	6	6	5
Cerro Cora	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Colegiales	5	1	2	2	4	5	5
Guarani	4	0	4	0	4	4	4
Resistencia	5	0	2	3	1	13	2

PERU

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 7-8: Alianza Lima 7 Union Minas 1; Dep Municipal 1 Sport Boys 2; Universitario 2 Sporting Cristal 1; Cienciano 2 Melgar 1; Juan Aurich 3 IMI Talara 1; Alianza Atletico 4 Dep Pesquero 0.
Aug 14-15: Melgar 2 Universitario 0; Sport Boys 2 Alianza Lima 1; Sporting Cristal 6 Dep Municipal 0; Union Minas 2 Alianza Atletico 2; IMI Talara 0 Cienciano 0; Dep Pesquero 0 Juan Aurich 2.
Aug 21-22: Alianza Lima 2 Sporting Cristal 1; Dep Municipal 2 Melgar 3; Universitario 6 IMI Talara 1; Cienciano 0 Dep Pesquero 0; Juan Aurich 1 Union Minas 1; Alianza Atletico 1 Sport Boys 1.

PERU

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alianza Lima	5	4	0	1	18	4	12
Alianza Atletico	5	3	2	0	10	3	11
Sport Boys	5	3	2	0	7	4	11
Melgar	5	3	0	2	10	5	9
Universitario	5	3	0	2	10	5	9
Cienciano	5	2	3	0	6	3	9
Juan Aurich	5	2	2	1	7	7	8
Union Minas	5	1	2	2	11	12	5
Sporting Cristal	5	1	1	3	10	8	4
Dep Pesquero	5	0	2	3	1	11	2
IMI Talara	5	0	1	4	2	15	1
Dep Municipal	5	0	1	4	4	19	1

URUGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 6: Tacuarembo 1 Defensor 3.
Aug 7: Frontera Rivera 2 Penarol 4.
Aug 8: Liverpool 1 Cerro 0; River Plate 0 Bella Vista P 0; Rentistas 0 Dep Maldonado 1; Bella Vista M 3 Huracan Buceo 0; Rampla Juniors 2 Danubio 5.
Aug 13: Frontera Rivera 0 Danubio 1.
Aug 14: Tacuarembo 0 Nacional 1.
Aug 15: Penarol 4 Rampla Juniors 2; Liverpool 2 Huracan Buceo 0; Cerro 1 Bella Vista M 0; Rentistas 1 River Plate 4; Bella Vista P 2 Dep Maldonado 2.
Aug 20: Dep Maldonado 2 River Plate 1.
Aug 21: Penarol 4 Danubio 1.
Aug 22: Nacional 1 Defensor 2; Rentistas 1 Bella Vista P 1; Frontera Rivera 3 Rampla Juniors 0; Cerro 0 Huracan Buceo 0; Bella Vista M 1 Liverpool 0.

URUGUAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Penarol	4	4	0	0	16	5	12
Liverpool	5	4	0	1	8	2	12
Defensor	4	4	0	0	7	2	12
Bella Vista M	4	3	0	1	8	3	9
Danubio	5	3	0	2	9	8	9
River Plate	5	2	2	1	7	4	8
Cerro	5	2	1	2	4	3	7
Dep Maldonado	5	2	1	2	6	10	7
Frontera Rivera	5	2	0	3	9	6	6
Nacional	4	2	0	2	6	6	6
Bella Vista P	5	1	3	1	6	7	6
Huracan Buceo	5	1	2	2	3	7	5
Rentistas	5	0	1	4	4	14	1
Tacuarembo	4	0	0	4	1	7	0
Rampla Juniors	5	0	0	5	6	16	0

VENEZUELA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 15: Estudiantes 0 Ital-Chacao 0; Caracas 2 FCU-ULA 0; Llaneros 4 Zulianos 2; Nacional 1 Carabobo 0; Trujillanos 0 Mineros Guayana 0.
Aug 22: Zulianos 0 Ital-Chacao 2; Caracas 2 Estudiantes 0; FCU-ULA 1 Trujillanos 3; Mineros Guayana 2 Inter El Vigia 0; Union Tachira 1 Nacional 1; Carabobo 3 Llaneros 0.

VENEZUELA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Caracas	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Trujillanos	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Ital-Chacao	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Mineros Guayana	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Nacional	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Carabobo	2	1	0	1	3	1	3
Llaneros	2	1	0	1	4	5	3
Union Tachira	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Estudiantes	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Inter El Vigia	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Zulianos	2	0	0	2	2	6	0
FCU-ULA	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

CONCACAF

MEXICO

WINTER CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 14: Necaxa 2 Cruz Azul 1; Tigres 2 Atlas 3; Puebla 1 Celaya 0; Tecos 1 Toluca 2.
Aug 15: Morelia 0 Guadalajara 2; Pumas 0 Leon 1;

Pachuca 2 Monterrey 1; America 2 Toros Neza 0; Santos 1 Atlante 1.
Aug 19: Cruz Azul 1 Pachuca 2.
Aug 21: Toluca 2 Santos 3; Monterrey 2 Tecos 0; Celaya 0 Tigres 0; Atlas 1 America 1.
Aug 22: Leon 2 Puebla 2; Toros Neza 1 Necaxa 3; Atlante 2 Morelia 1.

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leon	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Toluca	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Pumas UNAM	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Tecos UAG	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Toros Neza	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Puebla	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Monterrey	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Atletico Celaya	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Cruz Azul	2	0	0	2	2	4	0
Atletico Morelia	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Atlas	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Santos Laguna	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Atlante	2	1	1	0	3	2	4

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Necaxa	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Pachuca	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Guadalajara	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Tigres	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

USA

Aug 18: MetroStars 2 Columbus Crew 4; New England 0 Tampa Bay Mutiny 1; Colorado Rapids 0 Dallas Burn 3.
Aug 21: Miami Fusion 2 DC United 2 *DC United on shoot-outs*; LA Galaxy 4 MetroStars 1; San Jose Clash 2 New England 1.
Aug 22: Dallas Burn 3 Chicago Fire 3 *Dallas on shoot-outs*; Columbus Crew 1 Tampa Bay Mutiny 1 *Tampa on shoot-outs.*
Aug 25: MetroStars 1 New England 1 *New England on shoot-outs*; DC United 3 Miami Fusion 1; Chicago Fire 2 Kansas City Wizards 0.
Aug 27: Tampa Bay Mutiny 2 Columbus Crew 1.
Aug 28: Chicago Fire 2 New England 1; Dallas Burn 1 LA Galaxy 0; Colorado Rapids 0 DC United 1; San Jose Clash 1 MetroStars 1 San Jose on shoot-outs.
Aug 29: Kansas City Wizards 2 Miami Fusion 0.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	SW	L	F	A	Pts
DC United	26	14	5	7	53	35	47
Columbus Crew	25	10	5	10	38	28	35
Tampa Bay Mutiny	26	7	5	14	38	40	26
Miami Fusion	26	6	4	16	32	47	22
New England	25	5	4	16	30	42	19
MetroStars	26	2	3	21	24	55	9

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	SW	L	F	A	Pts
Colorado Rapids	24	13	3	8	36	30	42
Chicago Fire	25	13	1	11	44	27	40
Los Angeles Galaxy	24	12	3	9	35	20	39
Dallas Burn	26	12	2	12	44	26	38
San Jose Clash	24	4	10	10	34	43	22
Kansas City Wizards	25	6	2	17	30	45	20

SW = shoot-out win (1pt)

AFRICA

NATIONS CUP QUALIFIERS

PLAY-OFF GROUP

04.07.99 .....Eritrea-Zimbabwe 0-1
18.07.99 .....Senegal-Eritrea 6-2
01.08.99 .....Zimbabwe-Senegal 2-1
08.08.99 .....Senegal-Zimbabwe 2-0
15.08.99 .....Zimbabwe-Eritrea 4-0
21.08.99 .....Eritrea-Senegal 0-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SENEGAL*	4	3	0	1	11	4	9
Zimbabwe	4	3	0	1	7	3	9
Eritrea	4	0	0	4	2	13	0

**Senegal qualified for finals*

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

SECOND ROUND – 2ND LEG

July 4: DC Motema Pembe (DRC) 0 Shooting Stars (Nig) 0 *Game abandoned. Shooting Stars refused to play second half, claiming to have been assaulted by local fans at half-time. They led 2-0 from first leg and were awarded tie.*

QUARTER-FINALS

Group A

Aug 21: Shooting Stars 2 Al Ahly (Egy) 3.
Aug 22: Raja Casablanca (Mor) 1 Hearts of Oak (Gha) 0.

Group B

Aug 21: Esperance (Tun) 3 ASEC Abidjan (IvC) 0; SS Saint-Louisienne (Reu) 1 Dynamos (Zim) 0.

ASIA

JAPAN

J.LEAGUE – SECOND STAGE

Aug 6: Yokohama F Marinos 3 Jubilo Iwata 0.
Aug 7: Bellmare Hiratsuka 4 Nagoya Grampus Eight 2; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2 JEF United Ichihara 1; Kashiwa Reysol 2 Kashima Antlers 1; Verdy Kawasaki 1 Gamba Osaka 0; Shimizu S-Pulse 2 Cerezo Osaka 3 (aet); Kyoto Purple Sanga 2 Urawa Reds 1; Avispa Fukuoka 1 Vissel Kobe 1 (aet).
Aug 14: Vissel Kobe 3 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2 (aet); Urawa Reds 2 Kashiwa Reysol 3 (aet); Kashima Antlers 2 Yokohama F Marinos 3; JEF United Ichihara 3 Verdy Kawasaki 4 (aet); Jubilo Iwata 0 Shimizu S-Pulse 1; Nagoya Grampus Eight 0 Kyoto Purple Sanga 3; Gamba Osaka 2 Bellmare Hiratsuka 1 (aet); Cerezo Osaka 0 Avispa Fukuoka 2.
Aug 18: Kashiwa Reysol 1 Nagoya Grampus Eight 2; Verdy Kawasaki 2 Vissel Kobe 3; Yokohama F Marinos 2 Urawa Reds 0; Bellmare Hiratsuka 1 JEF United Ichihara 2; Shimizu S-Pulse 2 Kashima Antlers 0; Kyoto Purple Sanga 1 Gamba Osaka 0; Cerezo Osaka 3 Jubilo Iwata 2 (aet).
Aug 21: Vissel Kobe 2 Bellmare Hiratsuka 2 (aet); Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2 Verdy Kawasaki 3; Urawa Reds 0 Shimizu S-Pulse 3; Kashima Antlers 1 Cerezo Osaka 2 (aet); JEF United Ichihara 2 Kyoto Purple Sanga 1 (aet); Nagoya Grampus Eight 2 Yokohama F Marinos 2 (aet); Gamba Osaka 1 Kashiwa Reysol 0; Avispa Fukuoka 0 Jubilo Iwata 2.
Aug 28: Bellmare Hiratsuka 2 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 3 (aet); Kashiwa Reysol 2 JEF United Ichihara 0; Verdy Kawasaki 2 Avispa Fukuoka 0; Yokohama F Marinos 3 Gamba Osaka 0; Shimizu S-Pulse 4 Nagoya Grampus Eight 3; Jubilo Iwata 0 Kashima Antlers 4; Kyoto Purple Sanga 3 Vissel Kobe 1; Cerezo Osaka 2 Urawa Reds 3.

JAPAN

	P	W1	W2	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yokohama FM	5	4	0	1	0	13	4	13
Shimizu S-Pulse	5	4	0	0	1	12	6	12
Kyoto PS	5	4	0	0	1	10	4	12
Verdy Kawasaki	5	3	1	0	1	12	8	11
Kashiwa Reysol	5	2	1	0	2	8	6	8
Vissel Kobe	5	1	1	2	1	10	10	7
Cerezo Osaka	5	0	3	0	2	10	10	6
Sanfrecce H	4	1	1	0	2	9	9	5
JEF United	5	1	1	0	3	8	10	5
Gamba Osaka	5	1	1	0	3	3	6	5
Bellmare H	5	1	0	1	3	10	11	4
Avispa Fukuoka	4	1	0	1	2	3	5	4
Grampus Eight	5	1	0	1	3	9	14	4
Kashima Antlers	5	1	0	0	4	8	9	3
Urawa Reds	5	1	0	0	4	6	12	3
Jubilo Iwata	5	1	0	0	4	4	11	3

W1 = win in 90 mins (3pts); W2 = win in extra time (2pts); Draw (1pt)

ENGLAND SQUAD LISTS 1999-2000

ARSENAL

GOALKEEPERS

24	John LUKIC	11.12.60
13	Alex MANNINGER (Aut)	04.06.77
1	David SEAMAN	19.09.63

DEFENDERS

6	Tony ADAMS	10.10.66
5	Steve BOULD	16.11.62
2	Lee DIXON	17.03.64
18	Gilles Grimandi (Fra)	11.11.70
14	Martin KEOWN	24.07.66
22	Oleh LUZHNYi (Ukr)	05.08.68
20	Matthew UPSON	18.04.79
7	Nelson VIVAS (Arg)	18.10.69
3	Nigel WINTERBURN	11.12.63

MIDFIELDERS

19	Remi GARDE (Fra)	03.04.66
8	Fredrik LJUNGBEG (Swe)	16.04.77
19	Stefan MALZ (Ger)	15.06.72
11	Marc OVERMARS (Hol)	29.03.73
15	Ray PARLOUR	07.03.73
17	Emmanuel PETIT (Fra)	22.09.70
16	Silvinho (Bra)	12.04.74
30	Paolo VERNAZZA	01.11.79
4	Patrick VIEIRA (Fra)	26.06.76

FORWARDS

10	Dennis BERGKAMP (Hol)	18.05.69
14	Thierry HENRY (Fra)	17.08.77
25	Nwankwo KANU (Nig)	01.08.76
9	Davor SUKER (Cro)	01.01.68
12	Christopher WREH (Lib)	14.05.75

MANAGER

Arsene WENGER (Fra)

ASTON VILLA

GOALKEEPERS

39	Petr ENCKLEMEN	10.03.77
1	David JAMES	01.08.70
13	Michael OAKES	30.10.73
30	Adam RACHEL	10.12.76
40	Matthew GHENT	05.10.80

DEFENDERS

15	Gareth BARRY	23.02.81
34	Colin CALDERWOOD (Sco)	20.01.65
24	Lee COLLINS	03.02.74
22	Mark DELANEY (Wal)	13.05.76
5	Ugo EHIOGU	03.10.73
23	David HUGHES	01.02.78
4	Gareth SOUTHGATE	03.09.70
2	Steve WATSON	01.04.74
3	Alan WRIGHT	28.09.71

MIDFIELDERS

6	George BOATENG (Hol)	05.09.75
21	Darren BYFIELD	29.09.76
8	Mark DRAPER	11.11.70
20	Najwan GRAIEB (Isr)	30.01.74
17	Lee HENDRIE	18.05.77
32	Aaron LESCOTT	02.12.78
10	Paul MERSON	20.03.68
26	Steve STONE	20.08.71
14	Neil TARRANT	24.06.79
7	Ian TAYLOR	04.06.68
11	Alan THOMPSON	22.12.73

FORWARDS

9	Dion DUBLIN	22.04.69
12	Julian JOACHIM	20.09.74
22	Darius VASSELL	13.06.80

MANAGER

John GREGORY

BRADFORD

GOALKEEPERS

13	Matt CLARKE	03.11.73
17	Mark PRUDHOE	08.11.63
1	Gary WALSH	21.03.68

DEFENDERS

20	John DREYER	11.06.63
18	Gunnar HALLE (Nor)	11.08.65
22	Wayne JACOBS	03.02.69
21	Darren MOORE	22.04.74
3	Andy MYERS	03.11.73
14	Andrew O'BRIEN	29.06.79
6	Ashley WESTWOOD	31.08.76
5	David WETHERALL	14.03.71
2	Stephen WRIGHT (Sco)	27.08.71

MIDFIELDERS

11	Peter BEAGRIE	28.11.65
7	Jamie LAWRENCE	08.03.70
4	Stuart McCALL (Sco)	10.06.64
16	Lee SHARPE	27.05.71
12	Lee TODD	07.03.72
10	Gareth WHALLEY	19.12.73

FORWARDS

8	Robbie BLAKE	04.03.76
9	Lee MILLS	10.07.70
24	Gareth GRANT	06.09.80
25	Andrew PATTERSON	26.11.80
19	Isaiah RANKIN	22.05.78
	Dean SAUNDERS (Wal)	21.06.64
15	Dean WINDASS	01.04.69

CHELSEA

GOALKEEPERS

23	Carlo CUDICINI (Ita)	06.09.73
1	Ed DE GOEY (Hol)	20.12.66
13	Kevin HITCHCOCK	05.10.62

DEFENDERS

3	Celestine BABAYARO (Nig)	29.08.78
6	Marcel DESAILLY (Fra)	07.09.68
17	Albert FERRER (Spa)	06.06.70
4	Jes HOGH (Den)	07.05.66
14	Graeme LE SAUX	17.10.68
5	Frank LEBOEUF (Fra)	22.01.68
15	Mario MELCHIOT (Hol)	04.11.76
26	John TERRY	07.12.80

MIDFIELDERS

7	Didier DESCHAMPS (Fra)	15.10.68
16	Roberto DI MATTEO (Ita)	29.05.70
12	Bjarne GOLDBAEK (Den)	06.10.69
21	Bernard LAMBOURDE (Fra)	11.05.71
20	Jody MORRIS	22.12.71
22	Mark NICHOLLS	30.05.77
2	Dan PETRESCU (Rom)	22.12.67
8	Gustavo POYET (Uru)	15.11.67
11	Dennis WISE	16.12.66

FORWARDS

10	Pierluigi CASIRAGHI (Ita)	04.03.69
19	Tore Andre FLO (Nor)	15.06.73
32	Mikael FORSSELL (Fin)	15.03.81
9	Chris SUTTON	10.03.73
25	Gianfranco ZOLA (Ita)	05.07.66

MANAGER

Gianluca VIALLI (Ita)

COVENTRY

GOALKEEPERS

1	Magnus HEDMAN (Swe)	19.03.73
13	Morten HYLDGAARD (Nor)	
23	Raffaele NUZZO	

DEFENDERS

17	Gary BREEN	12.12.73
3	David BURROWS	25.10.68
2	Marc EDWORTHY	24.12.72
25	Barry FERGUSON (Ire)	07.09.79
19	Marcus HALL	24.03.76
6	Muhamed KONJIC (Bos)	04.05.70
5	Richard SHAW	11.09.68
4	Paul WILLIAMS	26.03.71

MIDFIELDERS

18	Youssef CHIPPO (Mor)	10.05.73
15	Laurent DELORGE (Blg)	21.07.79
16	Stephen FROGGATT	09.03.73
11	Mustapha HADJI (Mor)	16.11.71
10	Gary McALLISTER (Sco)	25.12.64
27	Stephen McPHEE (Sco)	05.06.81
20	Runar NORMANN	
22	Barry QUINN (Ire)	09.05.79
21	Gavin STRACHAN	23.12.78
12	Paul TELFER	21.10.71

FORWARDS

9	John ALOISI (Aus)	05.02.76
	Robbie KEANE (Ire)	08.07.80
8	Noel WHELAN	30.12.74

MANAGER

Gordon STRACHAN (Sco)

DERBY

GOALKEEPERS

1	Russell HOULT	22.11.72
24	Andy OAKES	11.01.77
21	Mart POOM (Est)	03.02.72

DEFENDERS

23	Paul BOERTIEN	21.01.79
2	Horacio CARBONARI (Arg)	02.05.73
5	Tony DORIGO	31.12.65
19	Steve ELLIOTT	29.10.78
29	Stefano ERANIO (Ita)	29.12.66
18	Richard JACKSON	18.04.80
16	Jacob LAURSEN (Den)	06.10.71
17	Spencer PRIOR	22.04.71
3	Stefan SCHNOOR (Ger)	18.04.71

MIDFIELDERS

14	Lars BOHINEN (Nor)	08.08.69
22	Vassilis BORBOKIS (Gre)	12.02.69
15	Marc BRIDGE-WILKINSON	16.03.79
10	Rory DELAP	06.07.76
11	Kevin HARPER (Sco)	15.01.76
7	Seth JOHNSON	12.03.79
28	Adam MURRAY	30.09.81
30	Danny PORTER	23.01.79
4	Darryl POWELL (Jam)	15.01.71

FORWARDS

27	Francesco BAIANO (Ita)	24.02.68
25	Mikkel BECK (Den)	04.05.73
9	Deon BURTON (Jam)	25.10.76
12	Malcolm CHRISTIE	11.04.79
26	Marvin ROBINSON	11.04.80
8	Dean STURRIDGE	27.07.73

MANAGER

Jim SMITH

EVERTON

GOALKEEPERS

13	Paul GERRARD	22.01.73
1	Thomas MYHRE (Nor)	16.10.73
35	Steve SIMONSEN	03.04.79

DEFENDERS

3	Michael BALL	02.10.79
28	Slaven BILIC (Cro)	11.09.68
2	Alex CLELAND (Sco)	10.12.70
15	Richard DUNNE (Ire)	21.09.79
37	Adam FARLEY	12.01.80
4	Richard GOUGH (Sco)	05.04.62
32	John O'KANE	15.11.74
18	Terry PHELAN (Ire)	16.03.67
38	Carl REGAN	09.09.80
6	David UNSWORTH	16.10.73
5	Dave WATSON	20.11.61
14	David WEIR (Sco)	10.05.70

MIDFIELDERS

7	John COLLINS (Sco)	30.01.68
22	Peter DEGN (Den)	06.04.77
11	Scot GEMMILL (Sco)	02.01.71
24	Tony GRANT	14.11.74
10	Don HUTCHISON (Sco)	09.05.71
20	Philip JEVONS	01.08.79
34	Matt McKAY	21.01.81
19	John OSTER (Wal)	08.12.78
23	Joe PARKINSON	11.06.71
	Mark PEMBRIDGE (Wal)	28.11.70
21	Mitch WARD	19.06.71
25	Danny WILLIAMSON	05.12.73

FORWARDS

8	Nick BARMBY	11.02.74
16	Danny CADAMARTERI	12.10.79
9	Kevin CAMPBELL	04.02.70
17	Francis JEFFERS	25.01.81
36	Jamie MILLIGAN	03.01.80

MANAGER

Walter SMITH (Sco)

LEEDS

GOALKEEPERS

1	Nigel MARTYN	11.08.66
13	Paul ROBINSON	15.10.79

DEFENDERS

31	Paul DONNELLY (Ire)	31.08.79
22	Michael DUBERRY	14.10.75
39	Gareth EVANS	15.02.81
42	Kevin EVANS (Wal)	16.12.80
16	Danny GRANVILLE	19.01.75
3	Ian HARTE (Ire)	31.08.77
29	Mark JACKSON	30.09.77
2	Gary KELLY (Ire)	09.07.74
31	Tommy KNARVIK (Nor)	01.11.79
38	Damian LYNCH	31.07.79
27	Alan MAYBURY (Ire)	08.08.78
18	Danny MILLS	18.05.77
30	Robert MOLENAAR (Hol)	27.02.69
5	Lucas RADEBE (SAf)	12.04.69
25	David ROBERTSON (Sco)	17.10.68
28	Paul SHEPHERD	17.11.77
6	Jonathon WOODGATE	22.01.80

MIDFIELDERS

19	Eirik BAKKE (Nor)	13.09.77
23	David BATTY	02.12.68
11	Lee BOWYER	03.01.77
34	Kevin DIXON	27.06.80
4	Alf-Inge HAALAND (Nor)	23.11.72
21	Martin HIDEN (Aut)	11.03.73
7	David HOPKIN (Sco)	21.08.70
20	Matthew JONES (Wal)	01.09.80
41	Brian LAGEN	03.10.80
35	Lee MATTHEWS	16.01.79
14	Stephen McPHAIL	09.12.79
15	Bruno RIBEIRO (Por)	22.10.75
40	Simon WATSON	22.09.80

FORWARDS

33	Wesley BOYLE (NI)	30.03.79
8	Michael BRIDGES	05.08.78
43	Warren FEENEY (NI)	17.01.81
37	Tony HACKWORTH	19.05.80
	Darren HUCKERBY	23.04.76
10	Harry KEWELL (Aus)	22.09.78
26	Derek LILLEY (Sco)	27.03.77
12	Alan SMITH	28.10.80

MANAGER

David O'LEARY (Ire)

LEICESTER

GOALKEEPERS

22	Pegguy ARPHEXAD (Fra)	18.05.74
1	Tim FLOWERS	03.02.67

DEFENDERS

16	Stuart CAMPBELL	09.12.77
18	Matt ELLIOTT (Sco)	01.11.68
3	Frank SINCLAIR (Jam)	03.12.71
4	Gerry TAGGART (NI)	18.10.70
19	Robert ULLATHORNE	11.10.70
5	Steve WALSH	03.11.64
37	Theo ZAGORAKIS (Gre)	27.10.71

MIDFIELDERS

13	Arnar GUNNLAUGSSON (Ice)	06.03.73
11	Steve GUPPY	29.03.69
24	Andrew IMPEY	13.09.71
6	Muzzy IZZET	31.10.74
7	Neil LENNON (NI)	25.06.71
29	Stefan OAKES	06.09.78
14	Robbie SAVAGE (Wal)	18.10.74
25	Stuart WILSON	16.09.77

FORWARDS

27	Tony COTTEE	11.07.65
21	Graham FENTON	22.05.74
9	Emile HESKEY	11.01.78

MANAGER

Martin O'NEILL (NI)

LIVERPOOL

GOALKEEPERS

19	Brad FRIEDEL (USA)	18.05.71
26	Jorgen NIELSEN (Nor)	06.05.71
1	Sander WESTERVELD (Hol)	23.10.74

DEFENDERS

6	Phil BABB (Ire)	30.11.70
20	Stig-Inge BJORNEBYE (Nor)	11.12.69
2	Stephane HENCHOZ (Swi)	)07.09.74
12	Sami HYYPIA (Fin)	07.10.73
21	Dominic MATTEO	24.04.74
4	Rigobert SONG (Cam)	01.07.76
5	Steve STAUNTON (Ire)	19.01.69
30	Dijimi TRAORE (Fra)	01.03.80
29	Stephen WRIGHT	08.02.80

MIDFIELDERS

23	Jamie CARRAGHER	28.01.78
28	Steven GERRARD	30.05.80
16	Dietmar HAMANN (Ger)	27.08.73
14	Vegard HEGGEM (Nor)	13.07.75
24	Danny MURPHY	18.03.77
11	Jamie REDKNAPP	25.06.73
25	David THOMPSON	12.09.77

FORWARDS

15	Patrik BERGER (Cze)	10.11.73
22	Titi CAMARA (Gui)	17.11.72
9	Robbie FOWLER	09.04.75
27	Haukur Ingl GUDNASON (Ice)	08.09.78
18	Erik MEIJER (Hol)	02.08.69
10	Michael OWEN	14.12.79
13	Karlheinz RIEDLE (Ger)	16.09.65
7	Vladimir SMICER (Cze)	24.05.73

MANAGER

Gerard HOULLIER (Fra)

MANCHESTER UTD

GOALKEEPERS

1	Mark BOSNICH (Aus)	13.01.72
31	Nicky CULKIN	06.07.78
	Massimo TAIBI (Ita)	18.02.70
17	Raimond VAN DER GOUW (Hol)	24.03.63

DEFENDERS

21	Henning BERG (Nor)	01.09.68
24	Wesley BROWN	13.10.79
23	Michael CLEGG	03.07.77
13	John CURTIS	03.09.78
28	Danny HIGGINBOTHAM	29.12.78
3	Denis IRWIN (Ire)	31.10.65
5	Ronny JOHNSEN (Nor)	10.06.69
4	David MAY	24.06.70
2	Gary NEVILLE	18.02.75
12	Philip NEVILLE	21.01.77
6	Jaap STAM (Hol)	17.07.72
35	Paul TEATHER	28.12.77
30	Ronnie WALLWORK	10.09.77

MIDFIELDERS

7	David BECKHAM	02.05.75
15	Jesper BLOMQVIST (Swe)	05.02.74
8	Nicky BUTT	21.05.75
14	Jordi CRUYFF (Hol)	09.02.74
36	Ryan FORD	03.09.80
11	Ryan GIGGS (Wal)	29.11.73
34	Jonathan GREENING	02.01.79
16	Roy KEANE (Ire)	10.08.71
18	Paul SCHOLES	16.11.74
33	Mark WILSON	09.02.79

FORWARDS

9	Andy COLE	15.10.71
22	Erik NEVLAND (Nor)	10.11.77
29	Alex NOTMAN (Sco)	10.12.79
10	Teddy SHERINGHAM	02.04.66
20	Ole Gunnar SOLSKJAER (Nor)	26.03.73
19	Dwight YORKE (T&T)	03.11.71

MANAGER

Alex FERGUSON

MIDDLESBROUGH

GOALKEEPERS

13	Marlon BERESFORD	02.09.69
25	Ben ROBERTS	22.06.75
1	Mark SCHWARZER (Aus)	06.10.72

DEFENDERS

24	Steve BAKER	08.09.78
5	Gianluca FESTA (Ita)	15.03.69
28	Colin COOPER	28.02.67
2	Curtis FLEMING (Ire)	08.10.68
29	Jason GAVIN (Ire)	14.03.80
3	Dean GORDON	10.02.73
21	Craig HARRISON	10.11.77
6	Gary PALLISTER	30.06.65
27	Robbie STOCKDALE	30.11.79

MIDFIELDERS

30	Michael CUMMINS (Ire)	01.06.78
8	Paul GASCOIGNE	27.05.67
9	Paul INCE	21.10.67
15	Neil MADDISON	02.10.69
12	Alan MOORE	25.11.74
7	Robbie MUSTOE	28.08.68
11	Keith O'NEILL	16.02.76
26	Anthony ORMEROD	31.03.79
14	Phil STAMP	12.12.75
22	Mark SUMMERBELL	30.10.76
16	Andy TOWNSEND (Ire)	23.07.63
4	Steve VICKERS	13.10.67
17	Christian ZIEGE (Ger)	01.02.72

FORWARDS

20	Alun ARMSTRONG	22.02.75
18	Andy CAMPBELL	18.04.79
10	Brian DEANE	07.02.68
19	Hamilton RICARD (Col)	12.01.74

MANAGER

Bryan ROBSON

NEWCASTLE

GOALKEEPERS

1	Shay GIVEN (Ire)	20.04.76
13	Steve HARPER	03.02.74
23	Lionel PEREZ (Fra)	24.04.67

DEFENDERS

2	Warren BARTON	19.03.69
27	David BEHARALL	08.03.79
16	Laurent CHARVET (Fra)	08.05.73
34	Nikos DABIZAS (Gre)	03.08.73
4	Didier DOMI (Fra)	02.05.79
8	Franck DUMAS (Fra)	09.01.68
5	Alain GOMA (Fra)	05.10.72
12	Andrew GRIFFIN	17.03.79
6	Steve HOWEY	26.10.71
18	Aaron HUGHES (NI)	08.11.79
3	MARCELINO (Spa)	26.09.71
21	Carl SERRANT	12.09.75

MIDFIELDERS

4	Garry BRADY (Sco)	07.09.76
26	James COPPINGER	10.01.81
7	Kieron DYER	29.12.78
17	Stephen GLASS (Sco)	25.05.76
25	Brian KERR (Sco)	12.10.81
	Robert LEE	01.02.66
10	Silvio MARIC (Cro)	20.03.75
19	Jamie McClen	13.05.79
15	Nolberto SOLANO (Per)	12.12.74
11	Gary SPEED (Wal)	08.09.69

FORWARDS

20	Duncan FERGUSON (Sco)	27.12.71
14	Temuri KETSBAIA (Geo)	18.03.68
28	Paul ROBINSON	20.11.78
9	Alan SHEARER	13.08.70

MANAGER

Bobby ROBSON

SHEFFIELD WED

GOALKEEPERS

1	Kevin PRESSMAN	06.11.67
28	Pavel SRNICEK (Cze)	10.03.68

DEFENDERS

2	Peter ATHERTON	06.04.70
21	Lee BRISCOE	30.09.75
5	EMERSON Thome (Bra)	30.03.72
30	Derek GEARY (Ire)	19.06.80
3	Andy HINCHCLIFFE	05.02.69
19	Jon NEWSOME	06.09.70
17	Ian NOLAN (NI)	09.07.70
6	Des WALKER	26.11.65

MIDFIELDERS

31	Manuel AGOGO	01.08.79
16	Niclas ALEXANDERSSON (Swe)	29.12.71
18	Simon DONNELLY (Sco)	01.12.74
22	Steve HASLAM	06.09.79
34	Alex HIGGINS	22.07.81
35	Peter HOLMES	18.11.80
4	Wim JONK (Hol)	12.10.66
24	Mark McKEEVER (Ire)	16.11.78
25	Scott OAKES	05.08.72
11	Phil O'DONNELL (Sco)	25.03.72
14	Petter RUDI (Nor)	18.09.73
15	Philip SCOTT (Sco)	14.11.74
7	Danny SONNER (NI)	09.01.72

FORWARDS

10	Andy BOOTH	17.03.73
8	Benito CARBONE (Ita)	14.08.71
12	Richard CRESSWELL	20.09.77
23	Gilles DE BILDE (Blg)	09.06.71
20	Richie HUMPHREYS	30.11.77
32	Owen MORRISON	08.12.81
33	Alan QUINN (Ire)	13.06.79
9	Gerald SIBON (Hol)	19.04.74

MANAGER

Danny WILSON

SOUTHAMPTON

GOALKEEPERS

20	Scott BEVAN	16.09.79
1	Paul JONES (Wal)	18.04.67
13	Neil MOSS	10.05.75

DEFENDERS

15	Francis BENALI	30.12.68
3	John BERESFORD	04.09.66
24	Patrick COLLETER (Fra)	06.11.65
2	Jason DODD	02.11.70
12	Richard DRYDEN	14.06.69
23	Scott HILEY	27.09.68
5	Claus LUNDEKVAM (Nor)	22.02.73
4	Chris MARSDEN	03.10.69
26	Scott MARSHALL (Sco)	01.05.73
25	Garry MONK	06.03.79
6	Dean RICHARDS	09.06.74

MIDFIELDERS

28	Kevin GIBBENS	04.11.79
11	David HOWELLS	15.12.67
22	David HUGHES	30.12.72
30	Hasan KACHLOUL (Mor)	19.04.73
7	Matthew LE TISSIER	14.10.68
8	Matthew OAKLEY	17.08.77
14	Stuart RIPLEY	20.11.67
	Trond Egil SOLTVEDT (Nor)	15.02.67

FORWARDS

16	James BEATTIE	27.07.78
31	Shayne BRADLEY	08.12.79
18	Wayne BRIDGE	05.08.80
	Luis BOA MORTE (Por)	04.08.77
27	David HIRST	07.12.67
9	Mark HUGHES (Wal)	01.11.63
17	Marian PAHARS (Lat)	05.08.76
19	Danni RODRIGUES (Por)	03.03.80
21	Andy WILLIAMS	08.10.77

MANAGER

Dave JONES

SUNDERLAND

GOALKEEPERS

13	Andrew MARRIOTT	11.10.70
1	Thomas SORENSEN (Den)	12.06.76

DEFENDERS

5	Steve BOULD	16.11.62
6	Paul BUTLER	02.11.72
17	Jody CRADDOCK	25.07.75
3	Michael GRAY	03.08.74
14	Darren HOLLOWAY	03.10.77
2	Chris MAKIN	08.05.73
25	Mark MALEY	26.01.81
18	Darren WILLIAMS	28.04.77

MIDFIELDERS

4	Kevin BALL	12.11.64
27	Thomas BUTLER	25.04.81
23	Chris LUMSDON	15.12.79
21	Gavin McCANN	10.01.78
16	Alex RAE (Sco)	30.09.69
20	Stefan SCHWARZ (Swe)	18.04.69
7	Nicky SUMMERBEE	26.08.71
19	Paul THIRLWELL	13.02.79

FORWARDS

24	Sam AISTON	21.11.76
12	Daniele DICHIO	19.10.74
15	Carsten FREDGAARD (Den)	20.05.76
11	Allan JOHNSTON (Sco)	14.12.73
10	Kevin PHILLIPS	25.07.73
26	Michael PROCTOR	03.10.80
9	Niall QUINN (Ire)	06.10.66
22	Neil WAINWRIGHT	04.11.77

MANAGER

Peter REID

TOTTENHAM

GOALKEEPERS

13	Espen BARDSEN (Nor)	07.12.77
1	Ian WALKER	31.10.71

DEFENDERS

5	Sol CAMPBELL	18.09.74
2	Steve CARR (Ire)	29.08.76
12	Justin EDINBURGH	18.12.69
26	Ledley KING	12.10.80
6	Chris PERRY	26.04.73
19	John SCALES	04.07.66
3	Mauricio TARICCO (Arg)	10.03.73
35	Alton THELWELL	05.09.80
15	Ramon VEGA (Swi)	14.06.71
21	Luke YOUNG	19.07.79

MIDFIELDERS

7	Darren ANDERTON	03.03.72
25	Stephen CLEMENCE	31.03.78
20	Jose DOMINGUEZ (Por)	16.02.74
33	Mark GOWER	05.10.78
11	Willem KORSTEN (Hol)	21.01.75
18	Ruel FOX	14.01.68
4	Steffen FREUND (Ger)	19.01.70
14	David GINOLA (Fra)	25.01.67
22	Allan NIELSEN (Den)	13.03.71
8	Tim SHERWOOD	02.02.69

FORWARDS

16	Chris ARMSTRONG	19.06.71
9	Les FERDINAND	18.12.66
10	Steffen IVERSEN (Nor)	10.11.76

MANAGER

George GRAHAM (Sco)

WATFORD

GOALKEEPERS

1	Alex CHAMBERLAIN	20.06.64
13	Chris DAY	28.07.74

DEFENDERS

16	Nigel GIBBS	20.11.65
3	Peter KENNEDY (NI)	10.09.73
2	Des LYTTLE	24.09.71
21	Keith MILLEN	26.09.66
27	James PANAYI	24.01.80
28	Colin PLUCK	06.09.78
23	Darren WARD	13.09.78
32	Mark WILLIAMS (NI)	28.09.70
22	Dean YATES	26.10.67

MIDFIELDERS

25	Adrian BAKALLI (Blg)	22.11.76
24	Alexandre BONNOT (Fra)	31.07.73
19	Clint EASTON	01.10.77
20	Johann GUDMUNDSSON (Ice)	05.12.77
14	Alon HAZAN (Isr)	14.09.67
8	Micah HYDE	10.11.74
29	Lee JOHNSON	07.06.81
10	Richard JOHNSON	27.04.74
30	Matthew LANGSTON	02.04.81
4	Robert PAGE (Wal)	03.09.74
5	Stephen PALMER	31.03.68
26	David PERPETUINI	26.09.79
6	Paul ROBINSON	14.12.78

FORWARDS

33	Dominic FOLEY (Ire)	07.07.76
18	Ben IROHA (Nig)	29.11.69
9	Tommy MOONEY	11.08.71
7	Michel NGONGE	10.01.67
15	Gifton NOEL-WILLIAMS	21.01.80
12	Allan SMART (Sco)	08.07.74
17	Tommy SMITH	22.05.80
11	Nick WRIGHT	15.10.75

MANAGER

Graham TAYLOR

WEST HAM

GOALKEEPERS

32	Stephen BYWATER	07.06.81
22	Craig FORREST (Can)	20.09.67
1	Shaka HISLOP	22.02.69

DEFENDERS

23	Chris COYNE (Aus)	20.12.78
15	Rio FERDINAND	07.11.78
30	Javier MARGAS (Chl)	10.05.69
20	Scott MINTO	06.08.71
19	Ian PEARCE	07.05.74
3	Stuart PEARCE	24.04.62
4	Steve POTTS	07.05.67
6	Neil RUDDOCK	09.05.68
6	Igor STIMAC (Cro)	06.09.67

MIDFIELDERS

26	Joe COLE	08.11.81
13	Marc-Vivien FOE (Cam)	01.05.75
18	Frank LAMPARD	21.06.78
11	Steve LOMAS (NI)	18.01.74
7	Marc KELLER (Fra)	14.01.68
16	John MONCUR	22.09.66
27	Emmanuel OMOYINMI	28.12.77
8	Trevor SINCLAIR	02.03.73

FORWARDS

34	Gary ALEXANDER	15.08.79
21	Michael CARRICK	28.07.81
10	Paolo DI CANIO (Ita)	09.07.68
9	Paul KITSON	09.01.71
12	Paulo WANCHOPE (CR)	31.07.76

MANAGER

Harry REDKNAPP

WIMBLEDON

GOALKEEPERS

23	Kelvin DAVIS	29.09.76
13	Paul HEALD	20.09.68
1	Neil SULLIVAN (Sco)	24.02.70

DEFENDERS

5	Dean BLACKWELL	05.12.69
2	Kenny CUNNINGHAM (Ire)	28.06.71
28	Peter HAWKINS	19.09.78
21	Duncan JUPP	25.01.75
3	Alan KIMBLE	06.08.66
17	Brian McALLISTER (Sco)	30.11.70
14	Tore PEDERSEN (Nor)	
6	Ben THATCHER	30.11.75
22	Chris WILLMOTT	30.09.77

MIDFIELDERS

18	Gareth AINSWORTH	10.05.73
19	Walid BADIR (Isr)	12.03.74
12	Neal ARDLEY	01.09.72
27	Stewart CASTLEDINE	22.01.73
8	Robbie EARLE (Jam)	27.01.65
24	Damien FRANCIS	27.02.79
26	Ceri HUGHES (Wal)	26.02.71
16	Michael HUGHES (NI)	02.08.71
4	Andy ROBERTS	20.03.74

FORWARDS

7	Carl CORT	01.11.77
10	Jason EUELL	06.02.77
11	Marcus GAYLE (Jam)	27.09.70
25	Jon GOODMAN	02.06.71
9	John HARTSON (Wal)	05.04.75
15	Carl LEABURN	30.03.69

MANAGER

Egil OLSEN (Nor)

Work, work and work again

Zdravko Reic reports on the lessons Slovenia have absorbed

On the wing...Djoni Novak outwits Albania's Arjan Xhumba

AFTER two complete failures in the qualifying tournaments for Euro 96 and France 98, Slovenia had become absolute outsiders for the Euro 2000 preliminaries. But they have managed to become the biggest surprise of the qualifying campaign so far.

In the former Yugoslavia, Slovenians were expected to be good at skiing – even capable of winning Olympic medals – but they had very few footballers to compare with Brane Oblak (who played for Olimpija, Hajduk, Schalke and Bayern) or Srecko Katanec (Olimpija, Dinamo Zagreb, Partizan Belgrade, Stuttgart and Sampdoria).

In spite of that, Slovenian players have started, little by little, to move to teams in larger European countries, thanks mainly to persistence and discipline. Those clubs have allowed them to develop and form a respectable national team.

The basis of the side was created after independence by Dr Dravko Verdenik, who gained his academic title in the theory of football. One of Slovenia's first official matches was against Italy in the Euro 96 qualifying competition, a 1-1 draw that caused a sensation especially since the Italians were lucky to avoid defeat.

Last summer, the hugely experienced former international Katanec became national coach, after a spell with the Under-21s and one season at the HIT club in Gorica. He brought about a transformation, with a 2-1 home defeat by Norway being more than offset by a haul of 14 points from the first seven qualifiers, in which they beat Albania and Latvia twice each and drew away to both Greece and Georgia.

But Katanec, a tall, lean workaholic who nevertheless has an air of calm about him, warns against complacency. "We must not be euphoric," he says.

All bar three of Katanec's squad play with clubs outside Slovenia. The stay-at-homes are at Maribor Teatanic, one of the surprises of the current Champions League programme.

The line-up is 3-5-2, but the middle five put the accent on attack. Zlatko Zahovic, a key figure in the middle of the line, is a striker with his Greek club, Olympiakos.

Three of the others in the side have strictly defensive roles, helped by midfielders Ales Ceh and Miran Pavlin who, according to the coach, "don't go into the opposing half".

Team transformer... Srecko Katanec

Katanec's coaching philosophy is that his team must not be dictated to by their opponents' tactics. He prefers an aggressive style and puts unusual emphasis on attacks down the wings, where Djoni Novak and Mladen Rudonja are fast enough to create problems for any defence. Slovenia's own defence is very solid and physically strong, playing to the rules but merciless if necessary.

Enthusiasm for football is growing rapidly in Slovenia, thanks to the national team's performances and to Maribor. Qualifying for Euro 2000 would be a wonderful achievement by players who represent a nation of only 1.5 million people, and while big business has not yet taken to the game in the country, that could well change.

In the meantime, Slovenians are relying on the German philosophy that success comes through work, work and only work. This is paying off for the squad, who were promised a bonus if they were able to collect seven or more points in the qualifiers. That they have done with ease, and in addition they will share £715,000, based on their number of appearances and coach Katanec's opinion.

KATANEC'S SQUAD

NAME	CLUB	BORN
Goalkeepers		
Mladen Dabanovic	Lokeren (Blg)	13/9/71
Marko Simeunovic	Maribor	6/12/67
Defenders		
Spasoje Bulajic	Koln (Ger)	24/11/75
Marinko Galic	Maribor	22/4/70
Aleksander Knavs	FC Tirol (Aut)	5/12/75
Darko Milanic	Sturm Graz (Aut)	18/12/67
Zeljko Milinovic	Linz ASK (Aut)	12/10/69
Midfielders		
Milenko Acimovic	Red Star (Yug)	15/2/77
Ales Ceh	Grazer AK (Aut)	7/4/68
Saso Gajser	Gent (Blg)	11/2/74
Rudi Istenic	Fortuna D'dorf (Ger)	10/1/71
Amir Karic	Maribor	31/12/73
Djoni Novak	Le Havre (Fra)	4/9/69
Miran Pavlin	Freiburg (Ger)	8/10/71
Zlatko Zahovic	Olympiakos (Gre)	1/2/71
Forwards		
Milan Osterc	Hercules (Spa)	4/7/75
Mladen Rudonja	St Truiden (Blg)	26/7/71
Saso Udovic	Linz ASK (Aut)	13/12/68

450 players will earn a handy £290million

But the top shots must labour for their loot. Paddy Agnew reports as a vital Serie A season starts

Fighting fit...Alessandro Del Piero back in action after a knee injury

MULTI-MILLION signing Christian Vieri scored a hat-trick, Brazilian ace Ronaldo started on the bench, Milan and Juventus were held to draws by promoted sides, and Lazio beat Manchester United 1-0 in the European Super Cup.

All in all, Italy's championship got off to a more than promising start. If the opening skirmishes mean anything, then Serie A seems sure to live up to its lavish if traditional (hometown) billing of 'il campionato piu bello' – the best in the world.

As always, the new season was accompanied by nationwide media hype, pointing out that Serie A Foot-Biz is bigger, more expensive, and more televised than ever. Whether it is any better remains to be seen.

What is certain is that soccer in Italy now represents the equivalent of the 13th largest industrial group in the country, with an annual turnover of some £3billion. The 450 or so players who make up the 18 Serie A squads share an estimated total of £290million a year. In other words, the average annual top-division salary is just a little short of £640,000 a year after tax.

This calculation seems grossly exaggerated until you take into account the wage packets of Serie A's top earners. This particular classification is headed by the refound Juventus star and would-be seasonal saviour, Alessandro Del Piero, who is on a handy £3.6m a year, again after tax.

Following in his footsteps all the way to the bank (all figures in after-tax millions of pounds sterling) are such as Christian Vieri (Inter, 2.9), Ronaldo (Inter, 2.6), Juan Veron (Lazio, 2.5), Alessandro Nesta (Lazio, 2.1), Gabriel Batistuta (Fiorentina, 1.8), Pavel Nedved (Lazio, 1.7), Oliver Bierhoff (Milan, 1.4), Francesco Totti (Roma, 1.4) and Edgar Davids (Juventus, 1.4).

Looked at another way, the total Serie A wage packet for this season could pay the average industrial wages of 70,000 workers.

A total of 9,431,550 fans attended Serie A games last season, but millions more will now watch 'il campionato' on television because, for the first time, two digital platform groups (D+ and Stream) are offering a variety of pay-for-view and pay-TV packages that cover all 18 teams.

The advent of full pay-TV coverage, too, will come as nothing less than total culture shock for the entire nation, because this last season of the millennium signals the end of the 'Sacred Soccer Sunday'. Serie A will no longer be exclusive to Sunday afternoons. TV marketing requirements have enforced a totally new fixture list, with two Serie A games played on Saturday, one in the afternoon and one in the evening, and a further evening game being played on Sunday. On top of that, Serie B matches will be screened on Friday and Monday evenings.

Nor does the new-look European fixture list offer much respite, for either TV fans or players. No fewer than eight Italian clubs are involved in European competitions (Milan, Fiorentina and Lazio in the Champions League, Juventus, Parma, Roma, Bologna and Udinese in the revamped UEFA Cup).

Given that these European ties will be played on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, then live action is about to become virtually a daily fix.

In reality, the Sacred Soccer Sunday had been progressively undermined in the last five or six seasons, first with the introduction of the Sunday night game for Tele+ subscribers and then because

the increased pressure of European competition regularly tempted big clubs to move their Sunday fixtures forward to Saturday.

What seems sure is that Serie A's millionaires will work hard for their keep. With Italian League, Champions League, Italian Cup and international matches – remember this season concludes with Euro 2000 in Holland and Belgium – the top men could play 70 or so games.

Not for nothing, many Serie A coaches already have pointed out that this season will involve obligatory turnover for those clubs rich enough to have a big and talented enough squad to permit it.

As Lazio's Swedish coach Sven Goran Eriksson said: "A side that goes all the way to the Champions League Final will have played 17 games, which represents exactly half the Serie A season."

As for *il càmpionato* itself, who will win it? Round up the usual Magnificent Seven suspects – Milan, Inter, Juventus, Roma, Lazio, Parma, Fiorentina – and take your pick. Only Inter (3-0 v Verona), Fiorentina (1-0 v Bari) and Lazio (2-1 v Cagliari) made winning starts to the season, which may prove not entirely irrelevant.

As may the fact that both Juventus and Milan got off to a poor start. Juventus were held to a 1-1 draw at home by newcomers Reggina, and little Lecce twice came from behind to draw 2-2 at home to Milan.

What definitely IS relevant is that Inter coach Marcello Lippi put Ronaldo on the bench for Inter's opening game, signalling a new era in the club's sometimes too indulgent handling of their talented Brazilian.

Nor was it a matter of no significance that Christian Vieri, the world's most expensive player following his midsummer move from Lazio, scored all three Inter goals, while Ronaldo (who played the entire second half) remained scoreless. As Lippi said: "Now you can see why we paid so much money for Vieri."

A long and winding road...

IT'S guessing-game time to see who has made the shrewdest market moves over the summer.

Milan already looked strong enough last season, but will they be even stronger with Ukrainian Andrii Shevchenko (£15million from Kyiv Dynamo) in their attack? With Yugoslav Predrag Mijatovic (£7m from Real Madrid) and Enrico Chiesa (£10m from Parma) alongside Gabriel Batistuta, can anyone match the power of Fiorentina's forwards?

Are Lazio, weakened by the loss of Vieri but strengthened by Argentina's Juan Veron (£19m from Parma), stronger or weaker than last season? They looked all right against a less-than-committed Manchester United in Monte Carlo, prompting United coach Alex Ferguson to predict that they will win the title.

Will Frenchman Zinedine Zidane find his best form and, if so, will he and rediscovered hero Del Piero inspire Juventus to reclaim their place at the top of the greasy pole?

Can Lippi set Inter's listing ship (admittedly equipped with an almost entirely new crew) to rights?

Have Parma already compromised their challenge by the sale of Veron?

For the answers to all these questions and more, we will have to wait until May 14. The long and winding road is just beginning.

Pro-file Darko Kovacevic

A touch of steel to go with a touch of class

YUGOSLAV marksman Darko Kovacevic became one of the top transfers of the summer, costing Juventus a club record £14million. But such is the mad, mad world of football economics these days that the former Real Sociedad idol is anything but guaranteed a regular spot.

There can be no doubting the quality of 25-year-old Kovacevic. Over the past two seasons he has netted 33 Spanish League goals for Real Sociedad.

Yet with Inzaghi and Del Piero likely to be Juve's twin strikers this season in the 3-4-1-2 formation favoured by coach Carlo Ancelotti, it is a reasonable assumption that the best Kovacevic can hope for is an ancillary role.

Some argue that Juve are too canny to have invested so many lire on a deluxe supersub, and suggest that Ancelotti could free space for Kovacevic by pulling Del Piero deeper or by opting to play all three forwards. Others do not deny the Yugoslav international's great ability but question the club's need for him. Had the shock of finishing only sixth in Serie A last term caused mighty Juve to panic?

Not that Ancelotti has any time for those who wonder why Juve made Kovacevic their most expensive recruit – the previous mark being £12m in 1992 when Gianluca Vialli moved from Sampdoria.

"It's of paramount importance to have a strong squad," says Ancelotti. "I don't know of any ambitious club with too much talent.

"Kovacevic is a fine player, a complete attacker. He's good with either foot, powerful and exceptional in the air. He's not just a finisher. He's a type who knows how to get into good wide positions and uses the ball well. There's a lot of Vieri about him."

Apart from a short, unhappy spell in 1996 at Sheffield Wednesday, where he suffered with work permit problems, Kovacevic, to his credit, has come up with the attacking goods throughout his career. His goals galore for Proleter Zrenjanin, Red Star Belgrade and Real Sociedad ensured he was the undisputed star of the show and, according to a former coach, more of the same should be expected at Juve.

"Darko is the sort of natural opportunist who will score goals anywhere," says ex-Red Star coach Ljubomir Petrovic. "He's an impeccable finisher with either head or feet and, crucially, he has a steely streak of determination in his character. This will help him succeed at Juventus."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Juventus (Ita)
Country Yugoslavia
Born November 18, 1973, in Kovin
Previous clubs Proleter Zrenjanin, Red Star Belgrade, Sheffield Wednesday (Eng), Real Sociedad (Spa)
International debut December 1994, v Argentina
International caps 28 (5 gls)
Honours Yugoslav League 1995 (Red Star); Yugoslav Cup 1995

Gil on the go again

Keir Radnedge on how controversy greeted the new season

LIKE the first cuckoo in spring, you know the Spanish League is properly up and running when Jesus Gil bellows his defiance at the world.

Gil, Atletico Madrid's volatile president, took only a week to get back into the swing of things. The provocation – not that Gil needs much of a pin-prick to exercise the enormous chip on both his shoulders – was a 4-1 defeat by Real Sociedad. That, following their opening 2-0 derby defeat by promoted Rayo Vallecano, dumped Atletico at the foot of the table.

Two goals each from Oscar De Paula and the Colombian, Victor Bonilla, proved a more than adequate response to a ninth-minute opener from Atletico's Santiago Solari – in the end.

De Paula equalised in the 60th minute, after going on as substitute, and within six minutes Bonilla had put the hosts ahead. Atletico were further upset when Argentinian defender Jose Antonio Chamot was sent off in the 70th minute for retaliation against Francisco de Pedro, an offence that cost Chamot a four-game ban. Bonilla then scored Sociedad's third, and De Paula added No. 4 just before the end.

War of words...Jesus Gil

Atletico coach Claudio Ranieri's response was, oddly, to speed up the departure towards Middlesbrough of Brazil midfielder Juninho, who had been a spectator in San Sebastian.

Gil, however, reacted in more predictable fashion, accusing Sociedad's directors and players of being "liars and cowards". He was furious at the draping from the stands of a banner proclaiming: "Atletico Madrid, Gil, Bastion, Murderers."

The taunt harked back to the killing of a Sociedad supporter, Aitor Zabaleta, outside Atletico's Vicente Calderon stadium before last season's UEFA Cup-tie between the clubs. Bastion is a right-wing Atletico supporters' group widely blamed for Zabaleta's killing, although nobody has been convicted.

Atletico protested that the banner should have been removed by the host club. Real Sociedad president Luis Uranga, taking a historical leaf out of the Admiral Nelson telescope manual, said he had seen no such banner and added that he was "fed up with Atletico".

Gil hit back: "We don't want anything more to do with Sociedad. We haven't had any relations with such lying, cynical people for a long time."

Not that everything at San Sebastian is peaceful. Austria midfielder Didi Kuhbauer already has given coach Bernd Krauss notice that he intends to move on at the season's end, accusing his Spanish team-mates of deliberately making life awkward for foreign players at the club and not passing the ball to him either in training or in matches.

Sociedad probably will seek to sell him during the mid-season transfer window.

Atletico Madrid always were bound for stormy waters. The same could not have been said for Mallorca, last season's Cup-winners Cup runners-up, but they are collecting problems at the same pace with which, last term, they collected admirers.

A fortnight into the season the federation decided that new Colombian coach Mario Gomez did not possess the necessary qualifications for the job, in which he had succeeded the respected Hector Cuper, now with Valencia. That was just about the last straw for Gomez, who had rapidly gone from talking about title challenges and the Champions League to assessing his side's chances of avoiding relegation.

Mallorca opened the season by conceding two injury-time goals which spelled a 2-1 defeat by Real Madrid, then lost 2-1 away to Rayo in the newly-rebaptised Estadio Teresa Rivera – the Vallecas fans' tribute to their club president.

Luis Carreras nodded Mallorca ahead just before the interval. Again, however, poor concentration cost them dearly, just as it had against Real Madrid. First Luis Cembranos equalised, then Manuel Canabal snatched a winner two minutes from time.

Mallorca, also upsettingly ousted from the Champions League qualifiers by Norway's Molde, had to play the last hour of the match without sent-off defender Gustavo Siviero.

Real Madrid and Barcelona made comparatively smooth starts. Madrid opened with that win away to Mallorca, despite a Fernando Hierro penalty miss, and then a 4-1 home thrashing of promoted – and relegation favourites – Numancia. England's Steve McManaman celebrated his first League goal for Madrid when he turned home a Raul cross against Numancia, and said later he was thrilled at how well he felt he was settling in at a "football home from home".

His translator, Clarence Seedorf, was not so happy. Irritation when the prospect of a move back to Italy collapsed was compounded by a training injury which condemned him to a further fortnight out of action. Ironically Seedorf was hurt in an innocent tackle with Ivan Campo – with whom he had come to blows during Real's build-up to last season's World Club Cup victory in Tokyo.

Seedorf's father, also his agent, made no secret of the pair's belief that a transfer would be beneficial. Inter still head the queue of interested parties.

Barcelona, opening winners over Zaragoza (2-0 at home) and Santander (2-1 away), were happy to field an apparently fully-fit Josep Guardiola for the new term. Not only that, but national coach Jose Antonio Camacho also threw him straight into his squad for the European Championship ties against Austria and Cyprus. Guardiola had missed the 2-1 friendly victory over Poland in mid-August with a foot injury but suffered no recurrence in Barcelona's opening two games.

Other tinkerings with the national squad included the return of new Atletico Madrid keeper Toni Jimenez to the exclusion of club-mate Francisco Molina, who had been reserve keeper for the Poland game. Central defender Fernando Hierro, criticised after sluggish performances for Real Madrid against Mallorca and in a curtain-raising friendly against Milan, held his place.

Camacho explained: "To have Hierro in the team is a luxury for us. He was one of the top defenders in Europe last season and you can't forget that on the basis of one week."

Elsewhere, Sevilla were ordered to play one 'home' game on neutral territory and fined after a bottle struck a referee's assistant during their opening 2-2 draw with controversy-encrusted Real Sociedad.

Enjoying life in Monaco...David Trezeguet

New start is fine for Djorkaeff

WHAT of Youri Djorkaeff, now with Kaiserslautern? He says that as soon as he decided to leave Inter, where he insists he had three marvellous seasons, Milan moved in to tempt him, but he would not bite. His experience with Inter had been too complete and satisfying.

Spain, he says, did not tempt him either; too like Italy. So it had to be either Germany or England and he chose Kaiserslautern, even if he did not know much about them. Once there, he was overwhelmed by his reception, and pleased that it was not as intrusive as in Milan, where he was constantly being stopped so fans could take photographs.

Above all, it seems, he was enormously impressed by the Kaiserslautern manager, Otto Rehhagel, who he says is as big a star as any player, constantly being asked for his autograph. "Rehhagel charmed me," says Djorkaeff. "He is a god, a star here."

Of Djorkaeff, Rehhagel says: "He needs to know the team better, to learn to play with it, but we have seen he is no ordinary player. When he has the ball, you never know what he will do."

What can we say about Lyon and the law of diminishing returns, though they beat PSG? In the close season, they spent a fortune on Brazilian Sonny Anderson from Barcelona, and a hefty sum on another striker, Tony Vairelles of Lens. To what effect? Instant elimination from the Champions League before it could even properly begin, by as obscure and cheaply assembled a team as Maribor.

In the interim Lyon went to Metz – shortly to be beaten and eliminated by West Ham – and won 1-0 with a goal by that reliable old soldier, Caveglia. The word has been that coach Bernard Lacombe is safe; but the Slovenian debacle has been a brutal blow. Hard to explain.

Still, on that same day Rennes were beating Bordeaux; form in our championship has been eccentric at the start, to say the least.

Even Paris Saint-Germain's, who made such an impressive start after last season's miseries.

That vastly expensive and greatly gifted Nigerian midfielder, Jay-Jay Okocha, seems to be back in form. Much of his improvement seems to be thanks to the fact that coach Bergeroo decided to change his function in the team, asking him to play deeper, rather than to operate, as in the past, just behind the front line.

This is where Ali Benarbia, signed in the summer from Bordeaux, prefers to operate, so the tactics seem to be suiting both of them.

David Trezeguet, who a year or so ago was at daggers drawn with Monaco president Campora – who thought that both Trezeguet and Thierry Henry were playing to get away – seems to have settled down again.

Trezeguet now has Italian international Marco Simone playing beside him, and began with a hat-trick against Bastia; the first, though, came with his left arm!

Andre Duclos

Pro-file Johan Micoud

After Zidane and Vieira, another star from Cannes

A FRENCH football trivia question. What do Zinedine Zidane of Juventus, Arsenal's Patrick Vieira and Bordeaux schemer Johan Micoud have in common? Answer: they all started their professional careers down on the Cote d'Azur with Cannes.

All three come from the same generation – born in 1972 or 1973. But up until quite recently, Micoud was by far the lowest-profile of this talented trio of midfielders.

Micoud, who left Cannes for Bordeaux in the summer of 1996, was long thought of in France as a player who would not or could not fulfill his vast potential. Nobody denied his brilliant technique, the ease with which he controlled or passed the ball. But he never seemed willing really to impose himself on a game. The Micoud modus operandi seemed to involve doing just enough to keep the coach happy. No more.

Another handicap was his fiery temperament. Cannes or Bordeaux games frequently featured the sight of Micoud angrily confronting referees and linesmen and, not unsurprisingly, he became one of officialdom's marked men. Forever fractious, he was doomed to be made an example of and in the 97-98 season, a second red card for verbal abuse brought him a four-match ban.

Then came last term's metamorphosis. Suddenly, a calmer Micoud appeared on the scene and his game developed more energy, consistency and will-to-win. Arguably, no other Bordeaux player was as influential as the club clinched the 98-99 French title, and a first full cap, against Northern Ireland last month, was a deserved reward for his efforts.

The new and improved Micoud is quite a midfield package. He can create, he is a composed finisher and now thinks nothing of tracking back to win the ball.

"Johan is the complete footballer," says Bordeaux skipper Michel Pavon. "He's a fighter as well as one of the very best technical players in France. He's crucial to us."

Not without reason, Micoud is often compared to Eric Cantona. The similarities are uncanny: the same tall, powerful frame, natural elegance, ability to shield the ball, disciplinary problems and even lack of speedster pace. What is more, Micoud also shares Cantona's disdain of the press and penchant for all things poetic.

"I'm an admirer of Cantona, but I haven't set out to copy him in any way," he stresses. "I can only be myself. I don't see the point in doing or saying things for effect, or to please the media. I'm true to myself. It's up to others to take me or leave me."

At the moment, French football is taking Johan Micoud in a big way.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Bordeaux
Country France
Born July 24, 1973, in Cannes
Previous club Cannes
International debut August 1999, v Northern Ireland
International caps 1
Honours French League 1999

Bayern blues

Lizarazu fined for a punch, Basler fined for a party...Keir Radnedge on the latest fun and games

Just fined...Bayern docked £7,000 from Bixente Lizarazu's wages for a clash in training

LOTHAR Matthaus is said to be quitting Bayern Munich in mid-season to join New York/New Jersey MetroStars in Major League Soccer. Whether he will go or not is open to doubt. Certainly the Bundesliga will be a far less entertaining place without him.

The latest fun and games erupted in training when French World Cup-winning left-back Bixente Lizarazu cuffed Matthaus's ears after a high-decibel argument. Not surprisingly, the incident generated enormous publicity as well as a £7,000 club fine for Lizarazu. It was followed by a typical Matthaus salvo.

He said: "All the hoop-la off the field makes me sick. I still enjoy playing 90 minutes of football but I'm fed up with all the theatre that has to go on. I can't wait to move to MetroStars."

The row began with Matthaus ordering Lizarazu to move into the centre of a five-on-one training exercise. Lizarazu pretended he had not heard, Matthaus shouted in anger, and the Frenchman refused to be intimidated – an act of courage which will have done his street cred no harm within Bundesliga dressing-rooms. Coach Ottmar Hitzfeld had to prevent the incident from getting out of hand.

Matthaus added: "Anyone watching may have thought it looked pretty aggressive. But the coach stepped in and told us to go to the dressing-rooms and talk about it. After five minutes, everything was forgotten."

Lizarazu admitted sheepishly: "It really wasn't very professional."

The context for the spat was Bayern's poorest start for eight years. Memories were still fresh of the calamitous end to last season, with razor-edge defeats in the finals of the European Champions and German Cups. Goalkeeper Oliver Kahn criticised Matthaus for his decision to move in mid-season. Stefan Effenberg was hurt in training. Then Mario Basler maintained his refusal to sign a new contract in his bid for pay parity with skipper Effenberg.

"I don't like any of this either," snapped Hitzfeld. "But we're all in the same boat. What matters most is starting to win again."

The very next day Bayern did exactly that, defeating local minnow rivals Unterhaching 1-0 in front of a sell-out crowd of 63,000 at the Olympic stadium with a 40th-minute goal from Paraguayan Roque Santa Cruz, his first since his arrival from South America.

Santa Cruz, still only 18, forced his way past two defenders on the right and shot home left-footed. "Not my most beautiful goal," he conceded. "But it was a dream come true to score my first for Bayern."

Unterhaching had gone into the match with three points from two games compared with the champions' one, wasted several clear chances in the second half, but came within a whisker of an equaliser when Albanian Altin Rraklli hit a post with an 85th-minute free-kick.

Matthaus was grumpily pleased with the points if not the performance. Meanwhile, Werner Lorant, coach of the other Munich club, 1860, was expressing an interest in him. "I have often talked to Lothar and he knows he can join us any time," said Lorant. "There will always be a place for him in our team."

Moving across the city might just appeal enough for Matthaus to turn his back on expectant MetroStars.

The Matthaus-Lizarazu skirmish was not the only incident that resurrected Bayern's old 'FC Hollywood' image, which Hitzfeld hoped had been shaken off last season.

Basler was also fined £7,000 for partying into the early hours at a Munich disco before the win over Unterhaching. He was not particularly upset – only irritated by the media pursuit which betrayed him.

He said: "I know I made a mistake. I just lost track of time. But it's hard to be a professional footballer these days. Every time you go into a

Stay or go?...Lothar Matthaus may yet cancel his move to the US and remain in Germany

disco or a bar there's a journalist or a photographer waiting there for you."

Basler has a penchant for controversy. In the 1996-97 season Bayern employed a private detective to track his wanderings. In October last year, the club fined him for spending too much time at the annual beer festival. Last February, he became caught up in a scuffle in a restaurant after accusing another guest of insulting his wife. He was dropped by national coach Erich Ribbeck after a poor performance in a friendly, which was blamed on a late-night card game.

Bayern president Franz Beckenbauer tried to play down the latest Basler breakout, saying: "Players work off frustrations in different ways. One guy will put on his training gear and go for a run in the forest. Another will go to a disco."

Beckenbauer's words did nothing to quell ongoing speculation that Hitzfeld would hope to sell Basler sooner rather than later.

While Bayern tried to patch up morale ahead of the Champions League campaign, so Bayer Leverkusen, runners-up last season, sought to hold their squad together. Midfielder Emerson Ferreira, a national team regular this year with Brazil, has been the target of a string of offers, all of which Bayer have turned down.

The most persistent pursuers have been Roma. New coach Fabio Capello is an admirer of 23-year-old Emerson (no relation to the former Middlesbrough player). The clubs are linked by Bayer's general manager, Rudi Voller, who was with Roma when helping Germany to win the 1990 World Cup.

Roma submitted a bid for Emerson when Voller flew to Italy to watch Bayer's Champions League rivals Lazio. Initially, Bayer have resisted all bids for Emerson but the prospect of collecting around £30million may prove impossible to resist if Roma come back in the mid-winter transfer window.

Leverkusen also may be offered one of Roma's reserve midfielders – Yugoslav Ivan Tomic, Russian Dmitri Alenichev or Argentinian Gustavo Bartelt.

Hertha Berlin strengthened their backbone for the Champions League by signing veteran defender Thomas Helmer on loan from promoted English club Sunderland, less than two months after he had been declared surplus at Bayern by Hitzfeld.

Helmer, 34, a European Championship winner in 1996, was as happy to be back in Germany as injury-hit Hertha were to have him.

This was not the first short-term transfer in Helmer's chequered career. Back in 1992 he forced a move from Borussia Dortmund, who agreed to sell him only on condition that he did not stay in Germany. Helmer went to French club Lyon – who sold him on to Bayern a few weeks later.

His Sunderland stay of 54 days was about as long as his spell at Lyon. He played only two matches in the Premiership and had few regrets when Hertha gave him the opportunity to exercise a contract clause that he could leave if wanted by a Europe-qualified club.

Helmer said: "This is a big challenge for me. I'm happy to be playing in the Champions League with Hertha but I would like to thank Sunderland for honouring that agreement."

Hertha's Michael Preetz, top scorer in the Bundesliga last term but now out with a broken arm, summed up the Berlin attitude when he said: "Helmer is loaded with international experience – we're all very happy about his arrival."

Other casualties causing headaches for coach Jurgen Rober included Norwegian Kjetil Rekdal, Icelander Eyjolfur Sverrisson, young German international Marco Rehmer, Dutchman Dick Van Burik and outstanding teenager Sebastian Deisler.

A muscle tear in a 1-1 draw against Werder Bremen cost 19-year-old Deisler the chance of a senior national team debut in the European Championship qualifiers against Finland or Northern Ireland.

"I'm very disappointed – I was so excited at being called into the national squad," said Deisler, who joined Hertha this summer from relegated Borussia Monchengladbach and has been compared with England's Michael Owen. He impressed Ribbeck not merely with his general level of performances since the start of the season, but with two spectacular goals from free-kicks.

Evidence that the Bundesliga is taking time to settle down was provided by Eintracht Frankfurt, almost relegated last season, having the chance to go top after the third round of matches.

Perversely, they let the chance slip when they were held 2-2 by a Duisburg side who had yet to win. Togo's Bachirou Salou opened the scoring for Frankfurt with his fourth goal of the season, making him the League's top scorer.

Bonhof quits Gladbach

FORMER UEFA Cup-holders Borussia Monchengladbach have yet to repair the damage which led to their humiliating relegation last season. They lost their first two games in the Second Division, and within 12 hours of the second, a 3-0 beating by Karlsruhe, coach Rainer Bonhof had quit.

Bonhof, one of the stars when Borussia carried off five League titles in the 1970s, had been an assistant national coach under Berti Vogts before returning to Borussia at the start of the year, but without success.

Not only did they slump in the League but they were eliminated in the opening round of the domestic Cup and could 'boast' only three wins in 26 matches.

Bonhof's training aide, Manfred Stefes, was appointed caretaker.

Robson returns, Gullit goes

It's all change again on Tyneside, reports Gavin Hamilton

"THE moment I came to Newcastle, journalists asked me if I understood how big the job was and I thought I knew. Now I know what they really meant. In this last year my private life has been invaded in a bad way. The worst part is that they have been harassing my family in Holland, and that for me was the limit."

And with that Ruud Gullit was gone, out of English football as swiftly as he had arrived, in the summer of 1995, at Chelsea. His resignation from Newcastle was followed, a few days later, by the appointment of Bobby Robson, the man who, while under contract at Barcelona, had twice turned down Newcastle.

A disastrous start to the season, in which Newcastle, having spent some £32million on newcomers, had won just one point from a possible 15, placed Gullit under enormous pressure. And his position became untenable following a home defeat by local rivals Sunderland, for which, amazingly, Alan Shearer was left on the bench.

Gullit may have blamed press harassment for his departure, but the root cause of his problems on Tyneside was the decline in his relationship with Shearer.

Dread end...Gullit's time at Newcastle is over

Meanwhile, Robert Lee, the former England midfielder and a close friend of Shearer, was neither allocated a squad number for this season by Gullit, nor put up for sale.

Gullit, whose young family stayed in Amsterdam, put no roots down on Tyneside, living out of a hotel room and flying back to Holland at regular intervals. As with his time at Chelsea, there were accusations of aloofness and distance from the players.

The sale of Paul Dalglish to Norwich was an attempt to rid the squad of any influence, real or imagined, exerted by his father Kenny, Gullit's predecessor at Newcastle. The transfer reportedly angered players, including Shearer.

Much of Gullit's success at Chelsea had been based on his ability to attract big-name players to Stamford Bridge. Yet his record for Newcastle in the transfer market was poor. He was forced to sell in order to finance rebuilding of the team he inherited and cleared a lot of dead wood from the squad, but their replacements were arguably no improvement. One, the £7million, injury-prone Duncan Ferguson, has hardly played since arriving from Everton last November.

For Gullit, so supreme a figure on the pitch, management in England has been a bemusing experience. The Dutchman is just the latest big-name player to leave the post of Newcastle manager in acrimonious circumstances, following Dalglish, Kevin Keegan and Ossie Ardiles. Keegan was the only success of the quartet, and he knew from his time as a player on Tyneside how to press all the right buttons.

Robson is an experienced coach with strong roots in the north-east, which is just what Newcastle need, but given the board's capacity for shooting themselves in the foot, the new manager's time will not be easy.

The 66-year-old Robson was under no illusions about the task in hand. "I thought Barcelona was quite big but this has pipped it," he said. "I have a massive job ahead of me. It is quite a challenge and I am up for it and eager for the task. It's great to be back in the north-east."

On the field, Manchester United continued where they left off by taking a three-point lead with the season only three Saturdays old, although they lost 1-0 to Lazio in the European Super Cup.

New-look Liverpool lost at home to Watford, then beat Arsenal thanks mainly to the revived Robbie Fowler, celebrating the birth of his first child. And Robbie Keane of Wolves, rated as "not worth £500,000" by Alex Ferguson, started to repay some of the £6million he cost Coventry with three goals in his first three games, plus one for the Republic of Ireland against Yugoslavia.

SCOTLAND

Four out of four for a change

SUPPORTERS of Scottish football were pleasantly surprised – some might say astounded – by the rare occurrence of all four European representatives making progress in their respective tournaments.

They were competing only in the qualifying rounds, but the sight of four Scottish teams managing to jump the first European hurdle simultaneously was one to be savoured, even so.

In Kilmarnock's case, it was not so much a case of jumping the hurdle as stumbling over it, extra time being needed to dispose of Icelandic part-timers KR Reykjavik; and St Johnstone, returning to Europe after nearly 30 years, made heavy weather of eliminating Vasas of Finland.

There were no such problems for Celtic, who destroyed Cwmbran Town, but the most impressive showing came from Rangers, who gave a disciplined, streetwise performance over two legs to defeat UEFA Cup holders Parma and progress to the Champions League.

They now face intriguing clashes with Bayern Munich, Valencia and PSV, the latter being Ibrox coach Dick Advocaat's former club.

In the UEFA Cup, St Johnstone have been rewarded with a glamour tie against Monaco, Kilmarnock face Kaiserslautern, and Celtic appear to have a less exacting task in the shape of Hapoel Tel Aviv.

The success of Rangers in Europe has led to some rescheduling of fixtures in the Scottish Premier League, the most significant being the postponement of the first Glasgow derby of the season.

Rangers play their opening Champions League match on September 21, two days after they were due to visit Celtic. It may now be December before Scottish football's Big Two face each other.

Celtic began the season in reasonably impressive style, but a defeat by Dundee United has thrown up a few question marks about their championship-winning abilities.

Rangers, meanwhile, have raced to their accustomed position at the front of the title race, and there is little evidence to suggest that they are ready to allow their status to be diminished.

By contrast, Aberdeen, with Danish coach Ebbe Skovdhal in charge, have made a horrendous

Well done...Rangers' Amoruso

start, losing their first five League games without scoring a single goal. The board was subjected to a noisy demonstration after the 3-0 home defeat by St Johnstone, one major shareholder being so disgusted by what he perceives to be a lack of application among the players that he suggested some should be sacked for failing in their duties.

Whether that option is available or not, it is abundantly clear that some far-reaching changes are overdue at Pittodrie.

Alan Fairley

WALES

Hughes stays as caretaker

MARK HUGHES has been given the job of seeing Wales through the remainder of the Euro 2000 qualifying campaign.

Hughes, still under contract and playing well for Southampton at almost 36, not only intends seeing his contract out with the club, but also hopes to continue playing for the national side.

The FAW say that his appointment will give them time to look for a longer-term solution.

In the opening exchanges in the League of Wales, western clubs were showing the way. Newly-promoted Llanelli comfortably beat Rhayader 3-1 and then demolished Aberystwyth 5-0. Near-neighbours Carmarthen travelled to Haverfordwest and won 6-1, with newly-signed teenager Matthew Delicate netting a hat-trick on his debut.

Champions Barry Town were held 1-1 at home by Rhyl but recovered midweek to win 2-0 away to Total Network Solutions. It was TNS's second consecutive defeat having lost their opener 4-1 at Aberystwyth.

The other newcomers, Flexsys Cefn Druids, went to Inter Cardiff and won 1-0, a fine start in their first campaign in the top division. Druids, formed around 1876, are one of the oldest clubs in Europe.

Inter Cardiff performed admirably in the UEFA Cup qualifying round first leg, but lost 2-0 at NK Gorica. They won the return 1-0.

Cwmbran Town were inevitably hammered by Celtic in their UEFA Cup venture, though the 4-0 defeat in the second leg was not surprising since they had four regulars missing due to injury. The final aggregate score was 10-0 to the Glasgow club.

Mel Thomas

NORTHERN IRELAND

European challenge is too tough

YET AGAIN the part-time footballers of Northern Ireland have found Europe a barren hunting ground.

In the UEFA Cup Portadown, like Glentoran in the Champions League, met Bulgarian opposition who proved far too strong. Against CSKA Sofia, Portadown lost 3-0 at Shamrock Park, and 5-0 in Sofia.

League runners-up Linfield fancied their chances against European debutants Lokomotiv Tbilisi from Georgia, especially after their players had recovered from a bout of food poisoning to lose by only 1-0 in the away leg.

At Windsor Park, however, a defensive slip allowed the technically adept visitors to equalise Larmour's second-half goal.

Perhaps the deciding factor was the absence of key players, midfielder Tony Gorman and sharpshooter Glenn Ferguson, through injury. Ferguson is likely to be out of action for some time with a leg injury, while Gorman twisted his neck while sleeping at the team hotel on the eve of the Windsor Park tie.

After a couple of games in the new season, promoted Distillery, now renamed Liburn Distillery have not found themselves out of their depth. An opening-day 2-1 victory over Portadown, when the team were missing their top striker from last season, Darren Armour, through suspension, was followed by a 1-1 draw away to Ballymena United.

Glentoran, the title-holders and favourites, received a nasty jolt in their second game when beaten 2-0 at home by Glenavon. Defensive frailty led to goals by the alert Donal O'Brien and Tony Grant.

Roy Kitson

Pro-file Christian Ziege

Portrait of a happy man, down by the Riverside

A SPOT of Riverside recuperation has provided the perfect tonic for Middlesbrough's new German wing-back, Christian Ziege.

In two nightmarish seasons at Milan, Ziege had cut a sorry figure, short on form, confidence and luck with injuries. But since opting to leave San Siro for Teesside this summer in a £4million deal, he once more looks the versatile and accomplished player who shot to fame at Bayern Munich and was one of the pillars of Germany's Euro 96 triumph.

The goals that helped Boro to early-season away victories over Wimbledon and Derby represent only part of 27-year-old Ziege's contribution to the club. The German's powerful runs, crossing ability and precise distribution invariably spell danger for the opposition, while, like any Bundesliga product, Ziege is well equipped for the physical nature of the English game.

All in all, it's been a perfect start to life in the Premiership and, as a welcome bonus, he is now back in the German squad after an absence of over a year.

"Christian has shown me that he is getting back to his best," explained national coach Erich Ribbeck. "In his opening games in England he looked very sharp, a very classy player. His career was in need of a spark and the move to Middlesbrough seems to have given him that."

Ziege knows only too well that he faces a tough task to supplant Jorg Heinrich as Germany's left wing-back. But he is convinced that the Premiership will turn out to be a much better platform than Serie A for him to show that he is worthy of international recognition.

"It's hard to pinpoint why I didn't do myself justice at Milan," says Ziege. "Injury problems, of course, didn't help and it's probably true that the highly tactical approach of the Italians didn't suit me. I'm a player of initiative. I didn't have a lot of freedom to express myself.

"I also thought I came in for a lot of unfair criticism. I was hammered in the press for not being good enough defensively, and the Milan crowd really gave me a hard time.

"The football in England is much more to my liking. There's not nearly so much tactics and I can take more risks, play my own game. Everyone at Middlesbrough has made me most welcome and I think I'm responding to that. I'm totally happy at the moment."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Middlesbrough (Eng)
Country Germany
Born February 1, 1972, in Berlin
Previous clubs Hertha Zehlendorf Berlin, TSU Rudow, Sudstern 08 Berlin, Bayern Munich, Milan (Ita)
International debut June 1993, v Brazil
International caps 41 (4 gls)
Honours European Championship 1996; UEFA Cup 1996 (Bayern); German League 1994, 1997; Italian League 1999

BELGIUM

Waseige takes over at the double

Nicholas Harling on Belgium's hectic countdown to Euro 2000

THE dubious privilege of leading Belgium into Euro 2000 has fallen upon Robert Waseige, successor to Georges Leekens as coach of tournament's co-hosts.

Leekens' 30-month stay was ended by the Belgian federation two days after the team's 4-3 friendly defeat by Finland, their fourth successive home reverse and the sixth in nine internationals since the World Cup finals.

Waseige was the prime candidate, and the 60-year-old took over with almost indecent haste. Four hours after being sounded out by Karel Vertongen, president of the federation's technical commission, he had the job.

Time is hardly on his side but with only 294 days to make an impression before the Red Devils begin proceedings next summer, Waseige (*see profile, opposite*) will have every excuse if Belgium flop.

"The challenge is immense," he said. "It is frightening when I consider the programme that awaits us."

Fellow Euro co-hosts Holland, Morocco and England, at Sunderland on October 10, will be the first three nations to confront Waseige.

"It is still too early to say which players I will call on. I will have to clarify the priorities of each individual," he added.

Leekens had 29 matches in charge – 10 wins, 10 draws and nine defeats – and used 70 players, many experienced internationals whose confidence rapidly dwindled to the extent that a handful insisted they would no longer play for him.

"Georges had sufficient experience in the job to overcome this situation," said Waseige.

"He knows that it was a job with high risks. I will contact him to wish him all the best."

Leekens, who was contracted until the end of Euro 2000, will receive £1.6m compensation. He left Mouscron in February 1997 to become the national team's 20th coach, replacing Wilfried Van Moer. Mouscron had risen from the Second Division to the top of the First when Leekens departed, amid much acrimony.

Enzo Scifo of Anderlecht, one of the players who fell out with Leekens, had a brush with death in the aftermath of an operation for a dislocated shoulder, when it was discovered that he also had suffered a collapsed lung.

Untenable position...Georges Leekens

Big three all square again

Alberto da Silva on a fiery start to the new season

PORTUGAL

PORTUGAL's big three all began the new season, on a day of beauty, combat and drama, with away draws against serious opposition.

Benfica (27 championships) began 1-1 at Rio Ave, a reasonable result for new coach Jupp Heynckes, although it might have been better.

Porto (17 championships) had a difficult task away to Boavista and they too drew 1-1, their hosts equalising in the last minute despite having had to finish with 10 men. Jardel scored for Porto.

Sporting (16 championships, but none since 1982) travelled to the lovely Azores and drew 2-2 with Santa Clara, making their top-division debut.

It was a memorable day for the islanders. Who would have believed that they could be 2-0 up at half-time, when Peter Schmeichel was in the opposing goal? The newcomers almost held out for victory, too.

But Benfica's match was perhaps the most significant. Vila do Conde, Rio Ave's home just north of Oporto, was *en fête*. Everything began early – marching bands, thousands of flags, wonderful food, not an empty space – although the match did not start until 8.30 in the evening.

Hardly had it begun, at long last, than it was spoiled. Referee Coroado, for reasons not explained, sent off Benfica's Calado and Ronaldo in the first half, decisions that led to police reinforcements being called in.

The second half was quiet enough, considering that Benfica's nine were battling their hearts out and refusing to surrender. They got their point, and earned it.

Benfica director Candide Gouvais, in charge of accounts and auditing at the club, did not mince his words: "The championship, once again, won't be won or lost on the field. The mafia is at work again."

He suggested that Coroado should resign "and never go to a game again".

Yes, football is back in Portugal.

HOLLAND

Furious coach has his boys on the run

HOW can you most punish professional players apart from retaining their salaries? By letting them run for several hours.

This was what Willem II coach Co Adriaanse had in mind after his team crashed 6-1 to Gent in a friendly.

Adriaanse, furious about the lack of effort, ordered players to drive to a village near Tilburg the next day, then forced them to hand over their car keys and run back to the stadium, 13 kilometres away. After lunch they ran back to their cars, Adriaanse hoping they had learned their lesson.

Champions Feyenoord gained the first prize of the season by winning the Supercup 3-2 against Ajax.

This was Feyenoord's first win in the Amsterdam Arena and showed they were better prepared for the new season than the Cup-winners.

Tomasson and Kalou put Feyenoord 2-0 up, but goals either side of the interval from Knopper and Gronkjaer brought Ajax level. Five minutes from time, Paauwe's devastating free-kick settled the game.

National coach Frank Rijkaard, disappointed with result and performance after a scoreless friendly with Denmark, said it was time Holland ended a run of games without a win.

Rijkaard experimented with Van Nistelrooy and new Atletico Madrid signing Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink – Holland's most expensive player to date – up front, while Kluivert assisted them from midfield.

Two Ajax players are heading for Spain. McCarthy, redundant since the arrival of Machlas, signed a contract at Celta Vigo, while Hoekstra has gone on loan to Compostela.

Klaas-Jan Droppert

REP IRELAND

Rovers building for the future

TWO of the oldest clubs in the newly-named Eircom League – Shamrock Rovers and Bohemians – are playing at temporary homes this season.

Rovers, early pace-setters in the Premier, have moved to Morton Athletics Stadium in Santry. Hoops fans are hoping that the move will be for just one season while their new stadium in Tallaght, on the south side of Dublin, is being built, though work has yet to start.

Since the Kilcoyne family sold Glenmalure Park in the late 1980s, the Hoops have played at Dalymount Park, the Royal Dublin Society's grounds in Ballsbridge, and for the past few seasons at Tolka Park.

During that time they have had five managers. Damien Richardson, the new man in charge, began his career at Rovers and is happy to be back, but he has no money to spend, so Rovers are making do with much the same squad as last year.

No sooner had Rovers vacated Tolka than Bohemians moved in as tenants of city rivals Shelbourne. Work on a new stand at Dalymount Park should be complete next month.

Sligo and Dundalk have new men in charge. Former Dundee defender Jimmy McInally and Terry Eviston are the respective new arrivals.

Sean Creedon

AUSTRIA

Pressure builds up on Krankl

WITH a fifth of the season gone, relieved FC Tirol coach Kurt Jara admitted after his team's 1-0 reverse at Salzburg that: "It had to happen some time and we now have our feet back on the ground."

Ironically, the goal that ended Tirol's run of seven wins was Salzburg's first for 376 minutes, but Rene Aufhauser took three attempts to put the ball in the net.

Salzburg chief Hans Krankl, under pressure after his team's poor start – only three goals all season up to the Tirol game – was also relieved as the win may save his job. Hard-man Thomas Winklhofer kept Tirol goal machine Radoslav Gilewicz in check.

Rapid took the points from Linz through a goal by Schiesswald, while. champions Sturm won 2-1 at Lustenau with Vastic netting his eighth goal in eight matches.

Unfortunately for national team coach Otto Baric, Vastic could not keep up his record in the friendly in Sweden, but a goalless draw was at least encouraging after the recent disasters.

Bob Vaughan

Supercup action...Feyenoord's first win in the Amsterdam Arena

Pro-file Robert Waseige

A rush job for Belgium's new veteran chief

WHAT a birthday present! Only a few days before veteran Belgian coach Robert Waseige was due to blow out the 60 candles on his cake, he was handed the toughest challenge of his career – reviving an ailing national team.

The dismissal of Waseige's predecessor, Georges Leekens, was entirely predictable. His Red Devils had consistently flopped both during and since France 98, and four consecutive home defeats, by the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Egypt and Finland, made dismissal inevitable.

But where would the Belgian federation find their next national coach, a man to mount a face-saving operation at the European Championship in 2000, when Belgium and Holland will act as joint hosts?

With such possible appointees as Eric Gerets, Hugo Broos and Jan Ceulemans under contract to PSV Eindhoven, Mouscron and Westerlo respectively, possibilities were few.

Highly-experienced Waseige, in charge at Charleroi last season before stepping down, represented the best of the meagre options.

Indeed, Karel Vertongen, chairman of the Belgian federation's technical committee, implied as much: "He has all the right qualities. He's someone with experience, wisdom and knowledge of the players. And he's available."

Waseige, whose 28 years of coaching experience includes spells with RFC Liege, Charleroi, Standard Liege and Sporting Lisbon, does, however, have much more to offer the Red Devils than an absence of alternative job prospects.

Yes, his only tangible success at the head of a club came when guiding Liege to the Belgian Cup in 1990, but it is worth remembering that he was never employed by Anderlecht or Club Brugge, the dominant domestic forces of the past three decades.

In his native land, Waseige enjoys a reputation as a master tactician, as a leader of men cut from the same cloth as national coaching legends Guy Thys and Raymond Goethals. He was voted the country's Manager of the Year in 1986, 1994 and 1995.

The cigar-smoking Waseige clearly is a deep thinker about the game and has a mountain of experience to call on. Yet the odds remain stacked against him. After all, he has only eight friendlies to turn Belgium from persistent under-achievers – only four wins in their last 19 games – into a team capable of holding their own at the European finals. And he has to confront the same major problem as Leekens – the dearth of talented Belgian footballers.

"Successful Belgian national teams from the past were built on their great unity, grit, discipline and self-sacrifice," says Waseige. "To produce a competitive team, we need to make sure we tap into these qualities again.

"There's no time to waste. Clubs, players, everyone concerned with the welfare of football in Belgium has to pull together for a national team we can be proud of. It's imperative we don't let ourselves down when Euro 2000 comes to our cities."

Nick Bidwell

Leaving AB...national team defender Rene Henriksen

DENMARK

Henriksen's blow for AB

Captain cashes in and heads for Greece

BRONDBY'S 100 per cent start to the new season was ended by a 2-0 defeat away to AB, who jumped over their Copenhagen rivals to go top of the table after five rounds.

But the long-term ambitions of AB, the most consistent team in Danish soccer at the moment, were hit by skipper and influential defender Rene Henriksen's move to Panathinaikos.

He was tempted by the offer of big wage increase from the Greeks, and knew that, having just passed the age of 30, this could be his last chance for a lucrative transfer.

Henriksen had another impressive match in his ninth international, a 0-0 draw in a home friendly against Holland, in which Sunderland's new signing Carsten Fredgaard made his debut.

Before the match Peter Schmeichel received his award as Denmark's Player of the Year for 1999, mainly for his exploits with Manchester United. He was also the winner in 1990 and 1993. It was his 113th game for Denmark and he shows no signs of wanting to quit. Henriksen was second in the poll, ahead of Fredgaard and Jesper Gronkjaer.

Back in the Superliga, there have been immediate problems for promoted OB, who took only one point from their opening four games.

FC Copenhagen, who have yet to recover from the trauma of the Brian Laudrup affair, also took only a point. Goalkeeper Michael Stensgaard's return from Southampton has failed to stop the rot.

In contrast, John Jensen's excellent start as coach at Herfolge continued. His team are unbeaten after four games and lie just behind the leading pair. A red card for Superliga leading scorer Tommy Schramm was the first blip to overcome.

Jim Holden

SWITZERLAND

Burundi boy's shock for Hodgson

FIRST DIVISION newcomers Delemont achieved a historic 2-1 victory over record champions Grasshopper in the ninth round of the 22-match qualifying phase, with the halfway mark approaching.

Substitute striker Erickson Nahimana from Burundi got the winner in the second minute of injury time, when he caught a threadbare Grasshopper defence off guard.

Nahimana had levelled the scores barely a minute after he was brought on on the hour.

This was a second defeat for Grasshopper, after their 2-0 loss to the other newcomers, Yverdon, also from the Jura region.

New coach Roy Hodgson, with typical gallows humour after his first defeat since replacing the sacked Roger Hegi, said: "If this continues, Grasshoppers will set a record in the number of trainers they have per season."

Zurich, fourth last season, lost 1-0 to visitors Aarau, and are struggling to find their form. They have taken over from Lausanne at the bottom of the division, with one win and four losses after nine rounds, and supporters are clamouring for coach Raimondo Ponte to go.

Lausanne, on the other hand, have finally regained their form. Three successive wins after a disastrous start lifted them to fifth. Champions Servette, with one win in the last four matches, also rallied strongly to overcome Yverdon 3-1, last season's top scorer Alexandre Rey getting the first goal.

St Gallen, founded in 1879 and the oldest Swiss club, continued to ride high at the top. After accounting for Lugano 2-1 and drawing 1-1 against Basle at home, they led with 18 points, two ahead of Servette.

Ivar von Rulach

ICELAND

Euro hopes are over

THE champions, IBV, having comfortably seen off the challenge of SK Tirana, found the long return trip across Europe to face MTK Budapest a journey too far, and crashed out 5-1 on aggregate in the second qualifying round of the Champions League.

Following the exit of Akranes from the InterToto Cup, Anderlecht's 9-1 humiliation of Leiftur and KR's 2-1 loss to Kilmarnock in the UEFA Cup qualifying round, Iceland were left with no representatives in Europe.

KR and IBV remain locked together in the battle for the domestic League title. With only four matches left, IBV trailed their mainland challengers by three points, but with a game in hand. The chance to repeat last year's Double has already gone, however, after they lost 3-0 to Akranes in the Icelandic Cup semi-final. KR are the other finalists.

On the international front, goalkeeper Birkir Kristinsson was the only home-based player named by national coach Gudjon Thordarson in his 22-man squad for the two crucial Euro 2000 qualifiers against Andorra and Ukraine.

Rab Christie

NORWAY

Player exodus hits home hard

THE FACT that most other countries in Europe start their domestic leagues in late summer has never hit Norwegian clubs stronger than this season.

Foreign teams are eager to strengthen their squads with new players when Norwegian footballers are in full season and at the peak of their form. Consequently they become targets, and nearly all Norwegian clubs have become dependent on income from sales.

Stabaek, challenging for honours before the summer, sold Jesper Jansson to Genk and Helgi Sigurdsson to Panathinaikos. This coincided with a loss of form by other players and suddenly they had problems winning matches.

Brann had to see Ketil Lovvik go to Grasshopper, Lillestrom sold Runar Normann to Coventry and let Valerenga have Mamadou Diallo on loan, but bought a sound replacement in Sveinung Fjeldstad from Raufoss. Viking sold Tomas Solberg to Aberdeen, and Cato Guntveit of Brann will join the same club when the season is over. And so the merry-go-round goes on.

Rosenborg are the only club with the financial resources to strengthen again immediately after players have left. When Sigurd Rushfeldt and Runar Berg went recently, John Carew and Orjan Berg were bought.

Rushfeldt had to go through quite an ordeal in connection with his transfer to Benfica, who ran into difficulties with a bank guarantee. This led to a cancelled transfer,

but Racing Santander were quick to react and signed the prolific striker for about £2.5million

Rosenborg made another signing that should prove to be a shrewd one. The youngest of the Berg brothers, 24-year-old Arild, has agreed to move to Trondheim from Bodo/Glimt at a time convenient to him.

Whether he decides to go when the season is over remains to be seen, but the clubs have struck a deal.

At the moment 85 Norwegian footballers play abroad, of which 33 are in England and 20 in other Scandinavian countries. Two years ago the number was 54 and last year it was 67.

One of the aristocrats of Norwegian club football, Viking Stavanger, celebrated their 100th anniversary in August. The club, who dominated the 1970s with four League championships, have failed in their attempts to challenge the top clubs of the 1990s, but having struggled in the relegation zone this spring they managed to haul themselves up

New man at Rosenborg ...striker John Carew

The national team ran into difficulties when Turkey understandably chose to travel home after the earthquake struck their country, rather than stay to play a friendly. Norway, left with no opposition, remarkably managed to 'unearth' Lithuania at 24 hours' notice, but the game was a dull affair. Norway won 1-0 with a goal from Andreas Lund a couple of minutes before the end.

Sigurd Odegaard

FINLAND

Antti to take charge

ANTTI MUURINEN will replace Richard Moller Nielsen as Finland's national coach at the start of next year.

Finland failed to qualify for next year's European Championship finals, and the general feeling is that while Moller Nielsen has done a decent job, he has failed to produce the final breakthrough many had expected.

Muurinen, 46, is one of Finland's most successful coaches, having won the Finnish League three times – in 1989 and in 1991 with Kuusysi Lahti and in 1997 with HJK Helsinki. Last year Muurinen wrote a piece of Finnish history by guiding HJK into the Champions League group stage.

Finland's 4-3 away win in Belgium was remarkable, being achieved without Jari Litmanen and Sami Hyypia. Jonatan Johansson was the star of the friendly with two fine goals.

Pentti Hietanen

SWEDEN

Record in sight for Asper

THE MOST difficult goalkeeper to beat in Europe at the moment is Mattias Asper of AIK.

After his team's 1-0 win over Vastra Frolunda, Asper had kept 10 clean sheets in a row. He could be on course to break Abel Resno's official world record of 1,275 minutes without conceding a goal, for Atletico Madrid in 1990-91.

Asper, 25, is in only his second season with AIK. He looks certain to challenge Coventry's Magnus Hedman for Sweden's number one spot in the near future.

Asper's side continue to dominate the Swedish League. Playing an efficient tactical game, AIK beat their nearest rivals, Helsingborgs, 2-0 away.

The club also set a Swedish record by signing striker Andreas Andersson for £2million from Newcastle.

But can AIK hold on to their stars? Asper is already a marked man, while Italy's Bologna like the look of midfielder Martin Aslund.

In stark contrast to their neighbours, Stockholm's other clubs, Djurgardens and Hammarby, are both struggling. Hammarby have sacked coach Rolf Zetterlund, one of Sweden's most respected coaches, who guided them to third place last season. His place was taken by Soren Cratz, who recently worked in Finland.

Pentti Hietanen

Pro-file Runar Kristinson

Icelandic midfielder who won't be afraid to travel

TOP Norwegian players are eager to try their luck abroad, so opportunities often are given to players from neighbouring countries to go to Norway and replace them.

An improved financial basis as a result of income from sales of players abroad has given foreign players better wages in Norway than in their home countries, and professionals from Sweden, Finland and Iceland, especially, have seized this opportunity.

Runar Kristinson was signed by Lillestrom from Swedish club Orgryte in 1997 and soon established himself as a commanding midfielder. Before spending nearly three years in Sweden he had played for KR Reykjavik for eight seasons, and he is now one of the most experienced Icelandic players in Norway.

This year Kristinson has been impressive all season and he has managed to avoid the niggling injuries that bothered him earlier in his career. This 30-year-old Icelander has a precise left foot and enjoys the playmaker role in midfield. Instead of scoring the goals, he orchestrates the attacks and has set up fellow Icelander Heidar Helguson on several occasions this season.

Lillestrom want to secure his services, though having played in Sweden and Norway, Kristinson would be interested in living in a more southerly European country. "But at my age I will also be satisfied to continue my football life in Norway," he says.

Coach Arne Erlandsen compares him to former midfielder Staale Solbakken and concludes: "Kristinson can create more on his own than Solbakken could, and is more important for the team. In the Lillestrom jigsaw, Runar is one of the most important pieces."

Erlandsen will fight hard to keep him at Lillestrom but knows that representatives from Austrian and English clubs have been regular visitors to watch the elegant midfielder. Bids have been rejected, more are expected.

Kristinson is not surprised by the success many Icelandic players have in the Norwegian game. "Going to Norway and playing regular League football simply makes us become better footballers," he says.

"Icelandic players are born fighters who enjoy putting a lot of effort into their training.

"We also know that Norway is a good transit country for a future career in bigger footballing countries, because the clubs here are watched a lot."

Sigurd Odegaard

Fact file

Club Lillestrom (Nor)
Country Iceland
Born September 5,1969
Previous clubs KR Reykjavik, Orgryte (Swe)
International debut 1987, v Soviet Union
International caps 76 (2 gls)
Honours Icelandic Cup 1994

Always in the news...Hristo Stoichkov

BULGARIA

A nasty shock for Stoichkov

Near-tragic accident for 'future' national coach

THERE is no keeping the 'Great Man' out of the news, but this time it was nearly tragic. Back in Sofia, Hristo Stoichkov was showing friends round his new house which is being built there, when a live electric cable fell on him.

Stoichkov, reported as anxious to take over as national team coach, was admitted to hospital as an urgent case, but he was released in time to travel with the Bulgaria squad to a friendly in Kyiv, where 15,000 locals saw Ukraine warm up for the crucial European Championship qualifying tie with France.

They were expecting rather more than a 1-1 draw with visitors out of the competition and badly needing to rebuild for World Cup qualifying.

Bulgaria cannot have been unhappy with the draw obtained by Milen Petkov's last-second equaliser. Coach Dimitar Dimitrov fielded a curious mixture of youngsters and veterans – Stoichkov did not play and his role, if any, is difficult to define – but will Dimitrov still be on the bench come the final Euro 2000 game with Luxembourg?

Lubo Penev is back from Compostela having retired as a player, and is apparently taking over as FA president! Whether this is as likely as Stoichkov becoming national coach is difficult to tell, especially as his latest idea is to take the University of Cologne coaching course, which would take up all his time.

In domestic football, too, changes are afoot. Litex, now known as Lovech, having lost their sponsor, have a new coach: Ferrario Spasov, once of Spartak Varna and previously sacked by the then Litex. Meanwhile Nasko Sirakov is to become president of Levski.

At least the championship got under way despite a merger (Olimpic-Beroe), a demotion (Metalurg), a re-promotion (Shumen), a late issue of the fixture list and tinkering with last season's final table!

Bob Vaughan

HUNGARY

More problems for Bicskei

THE international season began with a friendly at the Nepstadion with Moldova as first-time visitors and, surprisingly 10,000 spectators in attendance.

Once again the Magyars flattered to deceive and had only Sebok's goal to show for their efforts by the break. Moldova got back in to the game and produced an equaliser through Clescenko just after the hour, and thereby one of the national team's best results.

Neither country can qualify for the European Championship finals, though Hungary coach Bertalan Bicskei will be anxious to improve his record in charge in the remaining qualifying tie with Portugal. This will be rather more difficult than the visits to Vaduz and from the Azerbaijanis, and should there be any disasters this autumn he might find himself no longer in charge when the World Cup preliminary tournament kicks off.

On the club front MTK will be hoping for a good run in Europe. They began the League comfortably with a 3-0 home win over promoted LFC Tatabanya and are favourites for the title again.

Ferencvaros began with a defeat but were too strong for the Moldovans Constructorul in the UEFA Cup qualifying round. This was a rather better effort than that of the early League leaders, Ujpest, who went down 4-0 in Novi Sad.

Vojvodina were worth their victory in a politically difficult tie but Ujpest were anxious to salvage some pride from the return, which ended 1-1.

Bob Vaughan

SLOVAKIA

Adamec happy with 1-0

THE grind of the League championship, in which seven teams will be relegated next May, was relieved by the first international of the season, a visit from Israel.

Coach Jozef Adamec experimented with Kamil Susko of Spartak Trnava in goal and without the better-known players based abroad. The result was a pleasing 1-0 victory against a team who may qualify for the Euro 2000 play-offs after having put five past the hapless Austrians.

Martin Fabus of Trencin, who was the top League scorer last season, got the goal 10 minutes from the end, and the win could give Adamec the problem of who to leave out when the big guns are available for competitive matches. This is a luxury predecessor Jozef Jankech never enjoyed.

The financial crisis is hitting all the clubs in the League. Sponsors do not want to know about football and the only solution is selling players.

Slovan made a start by agreeing to the departure of international forward Majoros to Celtic, and there are certain to be other players who will prefer the hard currency abroad to months waiting at home to be paid for appearing in the ailing Slovak League.

Bob Vaughan

UKRAINE

Clubs to be cut again

PREMIER League clubs started the regular season bright and early on July 12 with 16 participating teams. But on the eve of the season the Football Federation of Ukraine decided to reduce the number of clubs to 14 from 2000-2001.

Three clubs will be relegated at the end of this season, and only one promoted.

This will be the fourth reduction in nine years of League existence and the third since the president of Kyiv Dynamo, Grygory Surkis, came to power as head of the Professional Football League.

PFL declared that the purpose of the League is not to rescue poor clubs from bankruptcy, but to create proper conditions for the middle and top clubs. The average salary of players in the Ukraine Premier League is a modest £550 a month. But many clubs cannot afford to pay even this.

One of the strongest Ukrainian clubs in the past, Chornomorets, made a terrible start on their return to the top flight, losing five matches in a row, scoring only two goals and conceding 19. Coach Olexander Golokolosov was sacked.

But at least he had had a run for his money. His fellow coach, Dnipro's Leonid Koltun, resigned after two defeats in the first two games of the season.

Kryvbas, under a talented young coach, Oleg Taran, signed Ukraine international Olexander Paliyanitsa. They took 19 points from their first seven games and led by three points from Kyiv Dynamo.

Oleg Zadernovsky

CZECH REPUBLIC

Chovanec crew carry on

THE national side under former Sparta player and coach Jozef Chovanec continued as they left off in the summer against the Scots – when qualification for Euro 2000 was secured – by overcoming the Swiss in a friendly in Drnovice.

A capacity crowd at 'Sportovniareal', built up in recent seasons by the Petra club in what is basically a Moravian village, saw the Swiss outplayed. However, the Czechs' third goal came only in injury time, through Miroslav Baranek, and they had to thank the luckless Marco Zwyssig for their second, an own goal five minutes after he had replaced Sebastian Jeanneret.

The Czech-Moravian FA policy of playing internationals at venues such as Teplice, Drnovice and Olomouc in recent times has meant capacity crowds in the provinces.

There are further such matches in front of Chovanec's team this season before departure for the Low Countries.

In Drnovice he gave a start to supersub Jan Koller, who did not disappoint, and scored his usual goal, before giving way to the lanky Vratislav Lokvenc.

After the ties with Bosnia and Lithuania, the Faroes will play at the Letna in the final Euro 2000 game.

A friendly in Eindhoven, one of Chovanec's old stamping grounds, follows in November and during the winter break the Czechs are competing for the Carlsberg Cup in Hong Kong with opposition from the local FA team, Mexico and Japan.

Bob Vaughan

ROMANIA

Dinamo's 100 per cent start

AN early start meant that there was a clear leader by the end of August and the time Euro 2000 got going again.

Dinamo set the pace with four wins on the trot and not a goal conceded, while Rapid, smarting from Champions League elimination by Latvians Skonto, were fifth, with Steaua lurking in the bottom half.

Amid the many scandals and problems at least it has been established clearly that the death of Astra Ploesti's Stefan Vrabioru after an early season game was not related to drugs.

Surprisingly both the oil town's teams have begun promisingly, Petrolul going third after defeating Extensiv Craiova, one of the three promoted clubs, 2-0 at home. Astra won 5-2 the same day, at Resita, one of the clubs already wondering if they will be out of the bottom four relegation places when the season finishes.

The promoted clubs already are finding the going tough, with both Craiova sides in the bottom four.

On the international front Romania began the season with a visit to Nicosia. A Lupescu penalty on the interval gave the visitors their first equaliser of the day against a much improved Cyprus team, but their task was not helped by keeper Stelea getting himself sent off. Filipescu's goal a quarter of an hour before the end meant a 2-2 draw.

Coach Victor Pitura will need better in the remainder of the Euro 2000 qualifying ties if he is to avoid slipping in to the play-offs.

Bob Vaughan

On a roll...the Czechs easily beat Switzerland in a friendly

Pro-file Sasa Ciric

Macedonian hitman shooting down Pancev's path

ANYONE for Tennis? Ambitious German Second Division club Tennis Borussia Berlin had set their heart on Nurnberg's Macedonian striker, Sasa Ciric, and not even a £5million price-tag – high by German standards – was going to stop them from getting the man they believe will spearhead a promotion push.

It should prove to be money well spent. At every club Ciric has played, he has been their top scorer, and the statistics are most impressive: 80 goals in 77 competitive Macedonian fixtures; 30 from 40 Swiss League matches; and 13 last season, when he ended fourth in the Bundesliga scoring charts.

Ciric, Nurnberg's captain, might have plundered even more goals had he not missed several games with a broken jaw after being kicked by a defender when stooping for a header.

Such is his bravery. He willingly puts his head where others would not put their boots.

That was not his only painful moment of the past few months. Despite the best efforts of Ciric and his Czech front-line partner, Pavel Kuka, Nurnberg were relegated last term, on goal difference on the last day, leaving scars that will take some time to heal.

Nurnberg had not just lost their top-flight status. With a substantial loss of income on the cards, the budgetary hole had to be filled and the club's most bankable playing assets had to be sold. Kuka and midfielder Michael Wiesinger left, for Stuttgart and Bayern Munich, but Ciric is the man the supporters will miss the most.

After starting his footballing career with the Pelister club in Bitola, Ciric subsequently starred for leading Macedonian side Vardar Skopje – where he won three League titles and was the country's top scorer in 94-95 with 35 goals. He moved on to CSKA Sofia in Bulgaria and Swiss outfit Aarau, before joining Nurnberg, then in the German Second Division, in 1997. He instantly became a cult hero, and his 10 goals helped the club back to the top flight in 97-98.

For much of his career – at Pelister, Vardar and CSKA – Ciric's coach was the man now in charge of the Macedonian national side, Djoko Hadzievski. A number of ill-timed injuries have restricted Ciric's international opportunities of late, but he did at least have the satisfaction of scoring the opening goal when Macedonia lost 3-2 to Croatia in a Euro 2000 qualifier.

A decade ago Red Star Belgrade's Macedonian striker, Darko Pancev, was a man to watch. Now it's Sasa Ciric.

Michel Stojmanovski

Fact file

Club Tennis Borussia Berlin (Ger)
Country Macedonia
Born January 11, 1968, in Bitola
Previous clubs Pelister Bitola, Vardar Skopje, CSKA Sofia (Bul), Aarau (Swi), Nurnberg (Ger)
International debut March 1996, v Malta
International caps 16 (5 gls)
Honours Macedonian League 1993, 1994, 1995 (Vardar)

A peaceful draw in Belgrade

Full-blooded...action in the Red Star Stadium

YUGOSLAVIA

THE long-awaited and postponed Euro 2000 qualifier between Yugoslavia and Croatia – the first encounter between those national teams since the collapse of former Yugoslavia – ended with a goalless draw, an outcome that was viewed in Belgrade as a disappointment.

Apart from the expected hostile atmosphere among the 50,000 crowd in Red Star Stadium, there was nothing else to confirm various pre-match expectations that this fixture represented more than just a soccer game.

On the pitch the atmosphere was sportsmanlike, with captains Mijatovic and Boban embracing before the choice of ends, and serious fouls were rare.

As for excitement, a floodlight failure, which caused a pause of 44 minutes, and teargas thrown by hooligans, during that break, probably will be remembered more than the rather disappointing performances from both sides, particularly in a boring second half.

In the opening stages of the domestic league, Red Star had a poor start with two draws in two games – both against relatively weak opponents. Partizan again look likely to have a comfortable stroll to a new championship title.

Vladimir Novak

TURKEY

Two clubs 'quit' after earthquake disaster

TWO clubs withdrew from league football in Turkey as a result of the earthquake that devastated part of the country.

All competitive games were postponed until September 10, as a mark of respect to the thousands of dead and injured.

The national team withdrew from a friendly against Norway after learning about the earthquake.

Much of the country's populous north-west area was damaged by the earthquake.

Club grounds in Bursa, Kocaeli, Izmit and Yalova became temporary camp sites for some of those left homeless.

The 1999-2000 season was only two matchdays old when the disaster happened, and Kocaelispor of the First Division and Sakaryaspor of the Second – both situated in the area of the worst damage – promptly decided to withdraw.

They applied for permission to stop playing, but later changed their minds and decided to carry on.

The only game played during the break was Galatasaray's European Champions match against Rapid Vienna – a 3-0 victory on a night of high emotions.

In their last match before the disaster, Kocaelispor drew 1-1 away to Fenerbahce, who then signed Guinean striker Suleyman Oulare from Belgian club Genk for a fee of £2.2million. He arrived to find the country in turmoil.

Hasan Cemali

MALTA

New stadium opens for business

THIRTEEN years ago the Malta FA opened the Ta Qali national arena and technical centre. To mark the anniversary, a smaller Centenary Stadium, with a new floodlit pitch, was brought into use.

The ground has one of the best artificial surfaces in Europe. It will host Second and Third Division games.

Valetta's hopes progress in the Champions League ended abruptly with a 5-0 defeat by Rapid Vienna, and title contenders Birkirkara made a mess of their UEFA Cup outing to Denmark, losing 7-0 against Lyngby.

Coach Pejovic seems to be taking most of the blame and his job is at risk.

Drasko Braunovic, of Valletta, now seems likely to become Birkirkara's third overseas player, teaming up with fellow Slavs Djorde Pintac and Robert Savic.

Sliema also came unstuck when losing 3-0 to FC Zurich on the way to an early exit from the UEFA Cup.

Domenico Aquilina

CROATIA

Blazevic flicks the switch

NATIONAL coach Ciro Blazevic did better than most people had a right to expect when his team played their long-awaited derby match against Yugoslavia in Belgrade, with Euro qualifying points at stake.

Blazevic's squad were "all over the place" as they assembled for the trip. Suker had just completed a move to Arsenal, Stimac was on Derby's transfer list, Jarni (Real Madrid) and Vlaovic (Valencia) were not in their club team, Stanic was on the bench at Parma, the same applied to Simic (Inter) and Tudor (Juventus), and Bilic (Everton) and Boksic (Lazio) had been injured.

Yet Blazevic handled his men and planned so well that a 0-0 draw was the result – good enough to be treated as a win in Croatia, but good enough, in the conditions, for the Yugoslavs.

With a 2-1 win over Malta, Blazevic and his men needed victories in the last two qualifiers, against the Republic of Ireland and Yugoslavia again.

The League programme began again with Croatia Zagreb favourites to take the title for a fifth time in a row. Osijek began with two successive wins but then lost coach Stanko Poklepovic, who was sacked after negotiating with Hajduk Split. The plan was for him to replace Ivan Katalinic, the former Southampton goalkeeper, but Hajduk changed their mind, keeping him and leaving Poklepovic out on a limb.

He admitted what he had done and was promptly sacked, but is now wanted by Ferencvaros of Hungary.

Zdravko Reic

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Serbs reject merger

THE two-year transitional period leading to one united championship instead of three ended in June, but the problem still has not been

resolved. There are 20 clubs in Serbia, 16 in Bosnia-Herzegovina and 14 in Herzeg-Bosnia.

The Serbs say that they do not want to play in a combined league, while others are willing to do so depending on certain factors.

The delay in forming a joint league is affecting clubs, who cannot develop while being limited to one small region, but the game will continue to be held up as long as politics rule.

Zdravko Reic

SLOVENIA

Toast to Maribor's winning start

MARIBOR began the new season in superb style, winning 4-1, 4-1, 4-2 and 5-0, to take a three-point lead. Rudar Velenje and Dravograd – playing in the top division for the first time – both have nine points.

A brewery sponsor Maribor in domestic games, but in European competition they are sponsored by a firm making iced tea.

Olimpia Ljubliana began with two wins, but then lost Ghanaian striker Moro, injured after scoring six.

Zdravko Reic

GREECE

Two to go by 2001

THE Greek Premier League is following the major soccer countries by reducing the numbers of competing clubs.

EPAE, the organisation representing the professional clubs, will cut the total in the First Division from 18 to 16 in 2000-2001, and to 14 in the following season.

While all the press attention has been given to Olympiakos and their major signings this season, Panathinaikos president George Vardinoyiannis says he has built a strong team.

"With the new players as well as with the old players we have built something concrete," he said.

The newcomers are Rene Henriksen from AB Copenhagen, Iceland's star forward Helgi Siguergusson, German Karl Heinz Pflipsen, Argentina's Fernando Edgar Galeto, Peruvian Persi Olivares and Greeks Costas Ipirotis, Giorgos Nasiopoulos and Costas Halkias.

Aris Thessaloniki are planning to play a friendly match in Istanbul with either Galatasaray or Fenerbahce, with proceeds to be given to the earthquake victims.

Athens police are looking for three youths alleged to have raped a 21-year-old woman in the toilets of the Athens Olympic Stadium during a Greek Cup game between Panathinaikos and Leonidio.

Unconfirmed television reports said the girl might have been a drug addict who had gone into the toilet for a fix.

The national soccer team won a third straight international friendly when beating El Salvador 3-0 in Kavala.

The goals were scored by Angelos Basinas, Nikos Lymberopoulos, with a penalty, and Apostolos Liolidis.

The Greek team also beat El Salvador 3-1 at the same stadium, Lymberopoulos scoring twice and Tassos Katsiabis adding the third.

Then a goal by Grigoris Georgatos, who has moved to Inter Milan from Olympiakos, beat Mexico 3-2 in Xanthi.

The other goals for the Greeks were scored by Andreas Niniadis and Dimitris Mavrogenidis.

PAOK Thessaloniki beat the visiting Mexican national team 5-2 in a friendly before 15,000 fans at Toumba Stadium.

On target...Grigoris Georgatos hit winner against Mexico

Lambros Choutos scored two goals and assisted on another as the Under-21 side beat Norway 3-1 in a friendly on the island of Lesvos.

The Greek Armed Forces team failed to retain their title when losing to Egypt on penalty kicks after a 3-3 draw in the second Armed Forces World Championships in Zagreb. The Greek team beat Iran to capture the first title two years ago.

Lou Economopoulos

NEXT MONTH

Your chance to vote for the World Soccer Player of the Year

PLUS

Club focus on Paris Saint-Germain

NOV ISSUE ON SALE OCT 15

Violence reigns

Brian Homewood in Rio de Janeiro on the growing problems facing the national championship

Slow starters...Mario Zagallo's Portuguesa

BRAZIL

Earlier this year, Brazil's leading clubs announced their intention to team up with Globo television to try to flog the Brazilian championship to more foreign television stations. Having watched the early stages of this year's tournament, the only advice this magazine can give to any networks thinking about parting with their money is: "Don't do it".

Viewers are unlikely to want to sit and watch 90 minutes of players sprawling around the ground in agony, either fake or genuine, and that is what most games so far have consisted of.

According to Datafolha, a statistics institute owned by the Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper, an amazing average of 63 fouls per game were committed during the third weekend of the championship. Matches with this number of fouls are simply unwatchable.

The Datafolha said that Botafogo midfielder Reidner came top of the individual charts with nine fouls in his team's game against Vasco da Gama, followed by Reginaldo (Corinthians) with eight and Edmilson (Sao Paulo) and the interestingly named Mozart (Coritiba) with seven each. Remarkably, none of these players was booked.

Datafolha said that overall, Santos are the leading foulers, committing 148 fouls in their first four matches at a ridiculous average of 37 per match.

Folha de Sao Paulo columnist Marcelo Damato had the misfortune to watch Santos during their 3-0 defeat by Atletico Paranaense, when they had only two players booked despite an astonishing display of kicking, punching and elbowing.

"[Referee Antonio] Perreira should have sent off five Santos players, four for violent fouls and one for fighting on the pitch," he wrote. Among the many absurdities listed by Damato was an incident in which Santos defender Andrei "stuck his studs in the thigh of Reginaldo, who was on the ground with the ball one metre away." Damato said a fight ensued but when tempers cooled "it was as if nothing had happened. There were no yellow cards, not even for Andrei."

The CBF's insane decision to allow players five yellow cards before being suspended has contributed to the escalation of violence, as has the traditional reluctance of Brazilian referees to apply the rules.

While the hatchet men are allowed to carry on playing however, others are less fortunate. On the day after Santos kicked their way to a 3-0 defeat against Atletico Paranaense (at least justice was done in the scoreline), Portuguesa midfielder Carlinhos suffered damaged knee ligaments after a cowardly, cynical foul by Sao Paulo defender Wilson. The offender, needless to say, went unpunished for an act which, if perpetrated in the street, could have landed him with assault charges.

Brazilian referees are now bringing their style of refereeing to the international arena. During the Copa America quarter-final between Mexico and Peru, Brazil's Wilson Souza de Mendonca blatantly saved all his yellow cards for the second half to reduce the possibility of a sending-off.

Another problem with referees is that they are simply incapable of telling when a player has dived and when he has been genuinely fouled. Two of Corinthians goals in a 5-1 win over Vitoria came from penalties awarded after dives by Edilson. On the same night, Palmeiras scored from a penalty after midfielder Alex tripped over his own feet.

The CBF, in the pomposity that has marked the decade-long reign of Ricardo Teixeira, claims that the Brazilian championship is the biggest and one of the most competitive in the world but the clubs clearly have other ideas.

Corinthians, Santos and Vasco da Gama, three of the contenders for this year's title, all turned their backs on the championship's early stages, preferring instead to take part in European pre-season tournaments. Santos went to play in Holland while Vasco and Corinthians went to Spain, all with varying degrees of failure.

The horrendous Copa Mercosur, intended to be a superleague but rapidly turning into a tournament for the reserve teams of South America's biggest clubs, further complicated matters. Corinthians, for example, played in Argentina against Velez Sarsfield on a Tuesday night, flew to Spain to play successive matches the following Saturday and Sunday, and were then in Brazilian championship action the next Wednesday.

The exodus of teams, an annual phenomena that Teixeira promised last year to stop, caused a host of postponements.

Corinthians, the defending champions, won their first four games to take an early lead while at the other end, Botafogo had an awful start. Mauro Fernandes was sacked as coach after just four games, his results including a 4-1 defeat by Cruzeiro and a 6-1 mauling by Paulo Cesar Carpegiani's Sao Paulo.

In his place came Carlos Alberto Torres, captain of the 1970 World Cup team, who was rehired by the same directors he accused of being dishonest when he was sacked by Botafogo 18 months ago. The change had little effect as Botafogo conceded three goals in the first 15 minutes of his debut on their way to a 5-1 defeat by Atletico Mineiro.

Mario Zagallo's Portuguesa got off to a slow start, with two wins and two defeats in their first four games, while Libertadores Cup champions Palmeiras managed only one win in five matches.

Faustino Asprilla, their new signing from Parma, did not play in any of them. It took a month to work through the red tape and when he was finally available, manager Luiz Felipe Scolari was forced to use up his quota of two foreigners in patching up a injury-hit defence, fielding Paraguayans Francisco Arce and Catalino Rivarola.

Perhaps. after seeing Brazilian action, Asprilla was arranging extra insurance for his legs.

On target...Martin Palermo notched six goals in Boca Juniors' early opening championship programme

Times are tight

Money is in short supply, reports Eric Weil in Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA

THE 1999-2000 season began under a cloud of austerity, with all clubs in debit and warned by the FA that it will check clubs' books and relegate clubs in debt by the following season. The result has been a reduction in salaries for many players and the trimming of some expensive players from squads. Players at champions Boca Juniors were pressing for wage rises and are now faced with reductions. The struggle could harm the on-field performance of the strongest team in the League.

The FA paid a Spanish consultancy firm for a plan to improve the League set-up, but adopted only few of their proposals. The championship has been made more interesting by the introduction of relegation play-off matches between the 17th and 18th teams (on average points over three seasons) of the A Division and the 3rd and 4th of the B Division.

The top two teams in the opening championship (Boca Juniors and River Plate have already qualified) will play in next year's enlarged Libertadores Cup. But a domestic knockout cup was again rejected.

There is government pressure for clubs to become companies, but the clubs, technically owned by their members, are strongly against it. There is also the danger that they would fall into the hands of business sharks – of which there are plenty already waiting – who would go only for profit. Some players' agents are interested.

Racing Club, in constant danger of being closed down by the courts due to their £40million debt, have been given another stay of execution, this time until the end of the year, which permits them to play in the opening championship.

After three games, San Lorenzo, Boca Juniors and River Plate filled the leading positions in the National A Division opening championship.

San Lorenzo, who unloaded some of their more experienced players to reduce their wage bill, were relying on a young team – six of their players were picked for the Under-23 side – in which strikers Ariel Lopez and Bernardo Romeo and midfielder Leandro Rogmanoli stand out. Popular, but hard-driving coach Oscar Ruggeri has at times played with four strikers, and they hit seven goals in three games.

Boca Juniors beat them with eight, but dropped points in a 1-1 draw with Racing that followed three strenuous games in a six-day visit to Spain. They opened with a 3-0 victory over Independiente to avenge their only defeat in last season's closing championship. Leading scorer Martin Palermo (six goals) could even afford to miss another penalty, his sixth miss in the last seven.

Pro-file Dida

Copa America hero works hard to silence the critics

The quiet hero of Brazil's Copa America win was the giant goalkeeper. Without Dida's magnificent penalty save they could have lost to Argentina in the quarter-final. Brazil were 2-1 up but wilting when Dida denied Ayala.

Earlier he had saved a penalty against Chile – and later denied USA a penalty in the Confederations Cup.

Dida's promise and agility had been apparent ever since his debut for Vitoria in 1992. A year later he struck gold as Brazil won the World Youth Cup in Australia.

Many were surprised that Dida took six years to become Brazil's first choice.

Dida pulled off some fine saves in the 1996 Olympics. But his faults linger longer in the memory. His kicking was poor, he tended to throw himself too early in one-on-one situations and he was weak on crosses. Twice Brazil conceded goals after he clattered into centre back Aldair.

Three years on he has yet to eradicate all the problems. He says: "I've worked hard on my game with the aim of constantly improving. I still get criticised, but that's something you learn how to deal with. I'm aware of my own capabilities. I never let the critics get to me."

Such strength of mind was important earlier this year when he decided five years at Cruzeiro was enough. His contract was up and Milan were keen to buy. But Bosman has yet to reach Brazil. Cruzeiro refused to sell and Dida went to court.

While matters were being resolved, FIFA gave him permission to play for Lugano in Switzerland. He recalls: "I played friendlies and two official games, which got me back in rhythm. That, together with two friendlies I played for Brazil, was my preparation for the Copa America."

Had Carlos Germano not pulled out injured, Dida might have started on the bench. But, despite his lack of match practice, he "felt ready to play. If not, then I wouldn't have been there". Brazilians are glad that he has made the No1 shirt his own.

For all his Copa America triumphs, Dida was surplus when the Italian deal went through so Milan loaned him to Corinthians back in Brazil.

His predecessor in the Brazil goal, Taffarel, also had problems getting into the team in his spell in Italian football.

At France 98, Dida was third choice. Next time he's likely to be out there on his own.

Tim Vickery

Fact file

DIDA (real name Nelson de Jesus e Silva)
Born 7-10-73 in Iraraq, Bahia
Club Corinthians (loan)
Previous clubs Vitoria, Cruzeiro, Lugano (Switzerland), Milan
International debut July 1995, v Ecuador
International caps 22
Honours Copa America (1999), World Youth Cup (1993), Olympic bronze (1996), Copa Libertadores (1997), Brazilian Cup (1996), Bahia state champion (1992), Minas Gerais champion (1994, 96, 97,98)

New role...Hernan Dario Gomez is now in charge of Ecuador

Libertadores set to expand

THE LIBERTADORES CUP continues to follow in Europe's footsteps. The Cup, instituted in 1960 following the success of the European club competition, will increase in size for next year in line with the UEFA Champions League.

In 2000, 32 clubs will participate in eight groups of four with the top two in each qualifying for the 16-team knockout phase. There will be four clubs each from Argentina and Brazil, three each from Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, and two from Venezuela or Mexico (following a qualifying competition), as well as the previous year's champion. Meanwhile, the CONMEBOL Cup, the less-than-popular tournament for leading teams not in the Libertadóres Cup, will not be played after this year.

There will be two changes in the Libertadores Cup format. The holders, who previously had a bye into the last 16, will now start playing in the first round, while in the knockout stage teams from the same country will no longer be required to play each other, so the finalists could be compatriots.

The South American Soccer Confederation (CONMEBOL) expects sponsors to put up £26million per year for the competition so that clubs can expect to get at least £60,000 per game.

CONMEBOL also confirmed that its qualifying tournament for the 2002 World Cup will again be played in one group, with all 10 countries meeting each other home and away. Play will start on March 28-29 next year and finish on November 13-14 in 2001.

Eric Weil

El Nacional take the spoils

ECUADOR

EL NACIONAL of Quito won the First Division opening championship and with it a place in next year's Libertadores Cup. It will be the club's 15th participation in the competition.

El Nacional, founded by the armed forces in 1962, is the only club in the country – and one of the few in South America – that does not use foreign players.

● Former Colombia coach Hernan Dario Gomez has been engaged as Ecuador's national team boss at a reported £16,000 monthly salary. He replaces Carlos Sevilla.

Eric Weil

Potosi on a high

BOLIVIA

REAL POTOSI began the closing campaign with a 2-1 victory over champions Blooming and went on to win their first four games.

Remarkably, Real Potosi have an average age of 33.5. Defender William Ibanez is 36, and the youngster of the team is 26-year-old goalkeeper Marco Salamanca.

One thing in the club's favour is their stadium, which is 4,120 metres above sea level, higher than the much-feared altitude of La Paz. Other teams nearly always lose in Potosi, but Bolivia's national team physio, Argentine Alfredo Weber, explains that it is easier for a player coming from altitude to adapt to sea level than the other way round.

Eric Weil

ROUND-UP

IN PARAGUAY...two teams in a provincial league needing big wins on the final day to win the title won their respective games 75-0 and 37-0. The league authorities were investigating the possibility of match-fixing. For one thing, both losing teams took to the field with only seven players – the minimum allowed by FIFA. In one of the games, a 17-year-old, Cristobal Gamarra, scored 35 goals.

IN CHILE... Universidad de Chile broke their own record (of 1965) by remaining unbeaten for 21 League games. They were also eight points ahead of second-placed Universidad Catolica with seven games to go of the regular season. The top eight qualify for the title play-offs, and U de Chile are the only team already through.

IN PERU... Alianza Lima led the First Division closing championship by one point after five games, with striker Claudio Pizarro scoring five goals in a 7-1 victory over Union Minas.

IN COLOMBIA... Deportivo Pasto, promoted last year, were the surprise two-point leaders of the closing championship after five games, while usual front-runners Atletico Nacional were near the bottom. Nacional's situation was not helped when Argentine coach Reinaldo Merlo decided to leave the country after receiving threats.

Eric Weil

Dubious moves cast a shadow

MEXICO

AFTER the Mexican victory in the Confederations Cup – the first by a Mexican national team in a FIFA-sponsored tournament – the domestic scene returned to normal.

The signing of Rafael Marquez by Monaco for £5million (the highest ever fee for a Mexican player) points to the success of the youth development programmes promoted since the 1980s by Cruz Azul, Tecos UAG, Atlas, Guadalajara, Toluca and Santos.

Yet there have been some dubious developments in recent weeks that cast a shadow over the Mexican game.

Two cases are especially dramatic. The first involves Puebla. They were relegated from the Premier Division last season but are still playing top-flight football having bought the franchise of promotion winners Union de Curtidores. The League accepted that the club would compete under Puebla's name, with the demoted team being known as 'Angeles' de Puebla.

The other case was the signing of 35-year-old Brazilian Bebeto by Toros Neza. The club, from a low-income suburb of Mexico City, won promotion in 1993 and made the title play-offs in 1996-97 with a very modest team. This gained them loyal followers in their home town, but then a new owner announced that he wanted to move the team to a higher-income neighbourhood and build a new stadium.

In the interim he paid £2million for Bebeto, who is making more money than any of his team-mates, and the locals showed their discontent when only 12,000 witnessed him making a poor debut, in the defeat by Necaxa.

So now the owner is wondering whether he should forget all about the new stadium, especially because the Bebeto deal soaked up money needed to pay for the cement...

Few teams showed consistency at the start of

Priceless...Mexico win the Confederations Cup

the Winter Season, with only Necaxa and Pachuca winning their first two matches.

Necaxa, the poor cousin of the three-team Televisa family, look better than ever with the leftovers assigned to them: Hugo Pineda, German Villa, Carlos Hermosillo and Sergio Vazquez.

Pachuca were saved from relegation last year by former international Javier Aguirre and started by beating Monterrey and Cruz Azul.

The League maintained the five foreign player-per-team cap. The only important names coming in were Bebeto, the Argentinians Berti, Latorre and Vigna, and the Uruguayan Abreu.

Carlos Ramirez

UNITED STATES

Crisis for Clash, misery for MetroStars

Paul Gardner reports on the American scene

WITH 48 games still to be played in the MLS regular season, seven of the eight play-off spots are virtually wrapped up. Barring remarkable end-of-season turnarounds, San Jose Clash and Kansas City Wizards will be eliminated from the Western Conference, with Los Angeles Galaxy, Colorado Rapids, Dallas Burn and current champions Chicago Fire going through.

In the Eastern Conference, the qualifiers will be DC United and Columbus Crew, plus probably Miami Fusion and Tampa Bay Mutiny, though New England Revolution still have a mathematical chance. MetroStars are marooned in last position, with the worst record in the League: only five victories in 25 games, three of them via shoot-outs, for which they get only one point.

The play-offs (each tie is a best-of-three series) begin in October, and the championship is decided by a single final game – the MLS Cup – to be played in Boston on November 21.

DC United continue to be the class outfit, with Bolivian internationals Marco Etcheverry and Jaime Moreno the main stars. But even the absence of both players during the Copa America and the Confederations Cup did not slow down United.

The Confederations Cup also featured the United States, thereby underlining one of the problems of having a winning club team: the players get whisked away to play for the national side. The USA team in Mexico (they lost in overtime in the quarter-finals to the hosts) included four DC players: veterans Jeff Agoos, Richie Williams and Carlos Llamosa, and newcomer Ben Olsen. But DC's bench strength took them through.

Los Angeles Galaxy have refound their confidence and look like championship contenders. Certainly the return of Carlos Hermosillo from his Mexican championship duties with Necaxa is welcome.

Colorado Rapids, beaten finalists in 1997, have been doing again what they did so well in that season: working hard, playing no-frills soccer, avoiding costly errors. Exciting it ain't, but they sit on top of the Western Conference, three points ahead of Galaxy, with Chicago Fire right behind.

Age is telling for Fire – the nucleus of their championship team last year was a group of over-30 eastern Europeans, and they have been having trouble staying the pace this season. An injury to key midfielder Chris Armas – one of the new young stars in the US national team – also caused problems.

New England Revolution, battling for a place in the East, hit a slump in August, just when it mattered. Coach Walter Zenga, who also doubled as goalkeeper, was injured and had to watch from the bench. This he did with increasing frustration and bad temper. Constant warring with officials – including a finger-poking confrontation in San Jose – got Zenga into trouble with his own fans, when he yelled obscenities at them.

After another game, while signing autographs, he had to be separated from a fan who yelled that Revolution were a Serie B team, and blamed Zenga for Italy's loss to Argentina in the 1990 World Cup.

Zenga was particularly upset by what happened in successive games against San Jose Clash, the worst team in the West. These were matches that came under close scrutiny for a very special reason: both teams have the same owners, the Kraft family. Multiple ownership is permitted in MLS: Lamar Hunt also owns two clubs (Kansas City Wizards and Columbus Crew), while Philip Anschutz owns three (Colorado Rapids, LA Galaxy and Chicago Fire).

Would there be, could there possibly be, skulduggery? With Clash virtually out of the play-offs would it not make sense for New England to take both games, thereby greatly increasing their chances of qualifying? Wouldn't it be good for the League if New England could make it all the way to the Final, to be played in their stadium?

The results put the conspiracy theorists to flight. San Jose won both games, and a fuming Zenga was only a reluctant participant at post-game press conferences.

The conferences at MetroStars, meanwhile, had descended into sparsely attended funerals, as Bora Milutinovic tried, in barely understandable English, to explain loss after loss. The press, seeming to take pity, avoided asking embarrassing questions about job security, and Bora came through unscathed. Anyway, the only opinion that mattered came from MetroStars owner Stuart Subotnick, who said he thought Bora was a terrific coach.

Subotnick also announced that he was not about to fire general manager Charlie Stillitano. He is the man who, since Day One, has been in charge of the League's worst team, one that has had five coaches and 80 (!) players in less than four years.

Stillitano's extraordinary optimism in the face of continuing failure was suddenly rekindled with the news that Lothar Matthaus would be joining MetroStars in January. Fine – except that the MetroStars' season does not begin until March, and everyone expects Matthaus to be part of the German national team next summer at Euro 2000, right in the middle of the MLS season.

Class performer...DC United's Jaime Moreno (left)

No matter. Despite the probability that he would be absent for up to a month, despite the fact that the contract was for only one year, despite the disturbing news that one of Matthaus's reasons for coming was to be with his girlfriend, who wanted a modelling career in New York, despite the fact that Matthaus will be 39 years old...despite all that, Stillitano blithely announced that "Lothar's a very, very special player, a great leader, on and off the field, and we are going to build our team around him".

Milutinovic was of the opinion that Matthaus would play either sweeper or defensive midfielder.

His status as a remarkable player is not in doubt – he was voted German Player of the Year for last season – but the idea that he, single-handedly, can rescue the slapstick MetroStars from their ineptitude was dismissed even by Stillitano, who admitted: "We're going to have to make a number of changes, and need more than Matthaus to turn the team around."

Lock-out...the Zambians went unbeaten for 13 years in Lusaka

Zambia record ends at last

Mark Gleeson on a remarkable home run

THE CURTAIN came down on Zambia's proud unbeaten run at the imposing Independence stadium in Lusaka when Angola recorded an unlikely victory in the Cosafa Castle Cup.

A penalty from 21-year-old Betinho put paid to a record of 13 years and 52 matches without defeat at the home of Zambian soccer.

Zambia's run stretched from September 1986, when they lost in a friendly against Zaire. Their last defeat in a competitive game was in 1985, when Algeria won in Lusaka in a World Cup qualifier for Mexico 86.

In the intervening years the Zambian side had a run of 46 wins and six draws.

Zambia had to come from behind to hold underdogs Mozambique in the quarter-finals of the Cosafa Castle Cup, drawing 1-1 and then booking a semi-final berth with a 4-3 penalty shoot-out win.

The game was played seven days before the match against the Angolans, who had not beaten Zambia in seven previous meetings.

Zambia's outstanding feat was to build a completely new team after 18 players and their coaching staff were killed in an air disaster over Gabon in April 1993. That team was, arguably, the finest yet produced by Zambia, and had been heavily favoured to qualify for USA 94.

Zambia were able to recover almost instantly from that tragedy and build up a whole new team, keeping the record intact for a further 29 games before meeting the Angolans.

ZAMBIA'S RECORD

28.09.86 lost to Zaire 1-0
Then...
1.....05.04.87 bt Malawi 3-1
2.....26.04.87 bt Zimbabwe 1-0
3 .....28.06.87 bt Ivory Coast 2-0
4.....21.07.87 bt Botswana 3-0
5.....15.11.87 bt Uganda 5-0
6.....17.01.88 bt Ghana 2-0
7.....04.06.88 bt Zimbabwe 3-2
8.....04.09.88 bt Malawi 7-1
9.....18.12.88 bt Egypt 2-1
10....22.01.89 bt Zaire 4-2
11....30.04.89 bt Mozambique 3-0
12....11.06.89 bt Tunisia 1-0
13....25.06.89 bt Morocco 2-1
14....15.07.89 bt Gabon 3-0
15....01.04.90 bt Tanzania 2-0
16....18.08.90 bt Swaziland 5-0
17....14.07.91 bt Madagascar 2-1
18....27.07.91 bt Angola 1-0
19....16.08.92 bt Mauritius 2-1
20....11.10.92 bt Tanzania 2-0
21....31.01.93 bt Namibia 4-0
22....28.02.93 bt Madagascar 3-1
23....11.04.93 drew with Zimbabwe 0-0
24....24.05.93 bt Malawi 4-2
25....04.07.93 bt Morocco 2-1
26....11.07.93 bt South Africa 3-0
27....26.09.93 bt Senegal 4-0
28....12.03.94 bt Zimbabwe 2-1
29....25.09.94 bt Ghana 3-0
30....09.10.94 bt Malawi 2-1
31....13.11.94 drew with Sth Africa 1-1
32....08.04.95 bt Gabon 1-0
33....15.07.95 bt Mauritius 2-0
34....05.11.95 bt Jamaica 4-2
35....23.12.95 bt Tunisia 2-0
36....19.05.96 bt Tanzania 1-0
37....16.06.96 bt Sudan 3-0
38....06.10.96 bt Mozambique 1-0
39....11.01.97 drew with Sth Africa 0-0
40....19.04.97 bt Malawi 4-0
41....27.04.97 bt Congo 3-0
42....01.06.97 bt Cameroon 3-0
43....12.07.97 bt Malawi 3-1
44....02.08.97 bt Mozambique 2-1
45....16.08.97 bt DR Congo 2-0
46....13.12.97 bt Burkina Faso 2-0
47....14.12.97 bt Nigeria 2-0
48....16.05.98 bt Mozambique 1-0
49....08.08.98 drew with Namibia 1-1
50....04.10.98 drew with DR Congo 1-1
51....10.04.99 bt Kenya 1-0
52....06.06.99 bt Madagascar 3-0
53....07.08.99 drew with Mozambique 1-1
Then...
14.08.99 lost to Angola 1-0

Senegal take last Nations Cup place

SENEGAL claimed the final place at the African Nations Cup finals and, in so doing, inflicted further pain on hapless Zimbabwe.

A 2-0 win for Senegal in their final play-off group match against Eritrea in Asmara gave them top place on goal difference to earn a place in the finals for the first time since 1994.

For Zimbabwe it was the knockout punch after a year of blows. In February, the Confederation of African Football stripped the country of the right to host the Nations Cup finals when it became evident that they were way behind with preparations. But unusually CAF accepted a plea from Zimbabwe to go into the qualifying campaign, which was already under way.

The special play-off group was created, with Zimbabwe to meet the runners-up in Groups 1 and 6, who turned out to be Eritrea and Senegal.

The Zimbabweans signed Dutch coach Clemens Westerhof to ensure their first-ever appearance at the finals, but after winning their first two games, they lost 2-0 to Senegal in Dakar.

Zimbabwe needed to beat Eritrea by a record scoreline in their last game, at home in Harare, to ensure a sizeable target for Senegal to aim at, but had not got a single goal by half-time.

Angry fans pelted objects at Westerhof and his players, who then responded by scoring four.

But the result left Senegal needing to win in Eritrea by only a single goal, so the 2-0 margin sufficed.

Zimbabwe are now the only side in Africa's top 20 never to have played in the Nations Cup finals.

Northern clubs play leading role

NORTH AFRICAN teams look to be the leading candidates again this year in the African Champions League.

Tunisian double winners Esperance and Egypt's fabled Al Ahly both gave clear indications of their potential with handsome victories on the opening weekend of the competition.

Al Ahly, playing in the league for the first time, had a hard-fought 3-2 away victory over Nigerian champions Shooting Stars, while Esperance thrashed holders ASEC Abidjan 3-0.

Former champions Raja Casablanca of Morocco also started on a winning note with a 1-0 defeat of Hearts of Oak, while surprise package Saint-Louisienne upset last year's runners-up, Dynamos of Zimbabwe, 1-0.

Mark Gleeson

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Referee dies after crowd attack

ZAMBIAN referee Stephen Lungu has died from injuries after being attacked by supporters of Premier Division club Green Buffaloes in July.

Lungu was beaten up by fans enraged by decisions they felt led to their team's 1-0 defeat by Kabwe Warriors in an important League match. The attack led to a brief strike by all the country's leading referees, who refused to handle games involving Buffaloes. The former army club have been ordered to play all their remaining League matches away from home.

Ailing Mufulira Wanderers have appointed former national team coach Samuel Ndhlovu.

Zambian international defender Moses Sichone is on trial at Koln.

A FIFA World Stars XI held an African select team, the Mandela XI, to a 2-2 draw in Johannesburg in a match to commemorate the retirement of former **SOUTH AFRICAN** president Nelson Mandela.

MOZAMBIQUE are to launch a new-look championship with 12 clubs, six from capital Maputo and surrounds, and three each from the central and northern areas of the country.

In **ANGOLA**, Primeiro Agosto, Inter Luanda and Petro Lobito share top place with 32 points.

SWAZILAND scored the biggest away win in their history with a 3-0 defeat of Lesotho in Maseru.

Lesotho Defence Force have a three-point lead in the **LESOTHO** Premier League.

CENTRAL AFRICA

SABLE BATIE, formed only a year ago, have won the **CAMEROONIAN** championship by two points from holders Cotonsport. Dynamo Douala, Aigle Nkongsamba and Free Boys of Bamenda are the three to go down.

On **SAO TOME E PRINCIPE**, the League has been won by FC Porto Real, by six points over Operarios.

NORTH AFRICA

TUNISIA have gone back to a single League of 12 clubs this season after experimenting with two separate groups last year. Etoile Sahel have the early lead.

EGYPT have asked for their Afro-Asian Nations Cup clash against Iran in Tehran to be postponed after the sacking of coach Mahmoud Al-Gohari and the resignation of the entire FA staff following the 5-1 defeat by Saudi Arabia in the Confederations Cup.

EAST AFRICA

ANDREW MUKASA, 24, of **UGANDAN** club SC Villa, has equalled the country's scoring record for a single season. He netted his 32nd to match the mark set by Jimmy Kirunda of Kampala City Council in 1978. Villa lead the championship.

ETHIOPIAN champions St George will not be allowed to defend their title if they do not pay outstanding fines of around £2,000, imposed for fan misbehaviour during last season's title decider in May.

International midfielder Anwar Siraj has moved to Ethiopian Coffee from EELPA.

TANZANIA's Mainland League is proving a closely contested affair, with Mtibwa and Simba on 52 points, and Young Africans one point back.

WEST AFRICA

THE SCHEDULE for the **AFRICAN NATIONS CUP FINALS** next year has been confirmed. The event will kick off in Ghana's capital, Accra, on January 22, with the opening round groups to be hosted in Accra and Kumasi (Ghana) and the Nigerian cities of Lagos and Kano. The quarter-finals will be on February 6 in Ghana and February 7 in Nigeria, and the semi-finals on February 10, one in each co-hosting country.

Accra will host the third place play-off match on February 13, with the Final in Lagos one day later.

GHANA beat Jamaica's Reggae Boyz 2-1 in a friendly in Accra.

Hearts of Oak lead the Premier League by nine points from Great Olympics and Kotoko.

MALI have been fined £6,000 by FIFA after crowd trouble at their Olympic Games qualifier against Egypt in June.

NIGER international Moussa Yahaya has signed for Uniao Leiria in Portugal from Albacete in Spain. He is joined by **NIGERIAN** international Wilson Oruma, on loan from Lens.

SENEGAL international Henri Camara, 21, has signed for Strasbourg from Diaraf Dakar.

GUINEA's Souleymane Oulare, Footballer of the Year in Belgium last season, has joined Fenerbahce.

Mark Gleeson

Pro-file Phil Masinga

Big achiever but still unloved at home

AS THE leading goalscorer for South Africa, it would be reasonable to expect that Phil Masinga would enjoy something like cult status in his native country.

Allied to that is the fact that he has been the leading goalscorer at his Italian Serie A club for the last two seasons and that he has played in the English Premiership, fervently followed in South Africa.

But, surprisingly, Masinga regularly earns the scorn of the local fans, being jeered and booed for his languid style and lanky legs.

Such treatment has twice seen the tall striker retire from international soccer, only to be enticed back into action by successive coaches.

Now another incident in Johannesburg has led Masinga to threaten that he will no longer play for Bafana Bafana at home, saying he is prepared only to appear for the national team in away games. This time, the forward was jeered when he appeared for the Mandela XI against the FIFA World Stars XI.

The awkward style of the big man might not be to the liking of fans traditionally enamoured with stylish players, but there can be no denying the major role Masinga has played in taking South Africa into the world's top 30 football-playing nations since the country's return from apartheid-enforced isolation.

He and Leeds captain Lucas Radebe are the two surviving members from that first South African team to play since the lifting of the ban, against Cameroon in July 1992. Masinga was the key forward in the country's victorious African Nations Cup campaign in 1996, and he also scored a marvellous long-range goal that took South Africa to France 98.

The forward started his professional career at Jomo Cosmos in Johannesburg before moving to Mamelodi Sundowns, where he tasted success in the local league and cup competitions.

Leeds signed Masinga in mid-1994, and he slotted quickly into the team. But a dreadful miss against Manchester United lost him a regular place, and after two seasons at Elland Road he was on his way to St Gallen in Switzerland.

Six months later, he moved on to Salernitana in Serie B and then went on loan to Bari.

Nine goals in Serie A, including an away winner against Inter, established Masinga's credentials in Europe and brought out a new-found confidence in his play.

Last season, he was again the leading scorer with Bari. It is a significant achievement for an African footballer, whose feats are not suitably appreciated back home.

Mark Gleeson

Fact file

Club Bari (Ita)
Country South Africa
Born June 28, 1969
Previous clubs Stilfontein Big XV, Jomo Cosmos, Mamelodi Sundowns, Leeds (Eng), St Gallen (Swi), Salernitana (Ita)
International debut July 1992, v Cameroon
International caps 50 (16 gls)
Honours African Nations Cup 1996; South African League 1993 (Mamelodi Sundowns)

Starting to shine...Japan striker Shinji Jo

Marinos make early running

JAPAN

YOKOHAMA F Marinos made a bright start to the J.League Second Stage with consecutive victories against First Stage winners Jubilo Iwata (3-0) and 1998 champions Kashima Antlers (3-2).

Further wins followed against Urawa Reds and Gamba Osaka, plus a draw with Nagoya Grampus Eight, putting Marinos in the pole position for the Second Stage race.

Marinos look the part under Spanish manager Jesus Antonio De La Cruz Gallego, who used to work with Johan Cruyff at Barcelona. A series of bold decisions is paying big dividends.

In the First Stage, he converted veteran South Korean World Cup midfielder Yoo Sang-chul, top scorer and Player of the Year in South Korea in 1998, into an out-and-out striker alongside Japan World Cup striker Shoji Jo. Yoo scored only once in the First Stage but already has added three in the Second.

More importantly, his power and speed have provided the perfect foil for Jo, who has scored five in the first five matches of the stage and risen to joint top of the 1999 scoring rankings with 13.

In defence, De La Cruz has just made the dramatic decision to shift 31-year-old veteran Masami Ihara, Japan's most capped player, from sweeper to stopper and use 22-year-old Naoki Matsuda as sweeper instead.

Matsuda was one of the key players in Japan's 1996 Olympic team who beat Brazil. He then had a long period out of the limelight but is now looking steady and strong.

"These positions suit both players better," says De La Cruz. "Matsuda judges the distance better; Ihara has a strong sense of responsibility and a lot of experience."

As for midfield, Marinos' talent always has been second to none. Atsuhiro Miura has become a national team regular under Philippe Troussier, captain Yoshiharu Ueno also has just been called up, and Shunsuke Nakamura has been inspirational for the Olympic team.

The result is adventurous play with plenty of vision and incisive through passes for Jo and Yoo.

Marinos also have signed former Real Madrid midfielder Igor Jovicevic from NK Zagreb. He should add a new dimension to the team.

The surprise early challengers are Kyoto Purple Sanga, more accustomed to propping up the table. Wins against Reds, Grampus and Gamba gave them the perfect start. They lost the next game against JEF, but then attracted their biggest gate of the season for a 3-1 win against Vissel. That crowd was swelled by the prospect of seeing the J.League signing of the season, Kazu Miura, on his return from Croatia Zagreb.

Kazu's third overseas adventure was, to tell the truth, no more successful than his second at Genoa, and Ossie Ardiles quickly told Kazu he did not figure in his plans when taking over in Zagreb. Kazu made no mistake against Vissel, though, scoring twice on his Kyoto debut.

He said on his arrival that he chose Kyoto because of manager Shu Kamo, his former boss on the national team. In the end, though, it was all too much for Kamo, who had to watch the game on hospital TV after collapsing from "stress and overwork".

Another star made a spectacular return: Zico, who took over in charge of Kashima Antlers when Ze Mario was fired after their eighth consecutive League defeat. Antlers were away to Jubilo for his first match in charge. Zico possibly wondered what all the fuss was about as Antlers romped to a 4-0 win over the Asian champions.

Jubilo are struggling, too, in last place in the Second Stage table. The loss of Dunga before the First Stage was plugged by Hiroshi Nanami, but he has gone, to Venezia in Serie A, and things are looking awkward.

Jubilo, however, have signed Russian striker Dimitri Radchenko from Deportivo La Coruna.

Mike Plastow & Michi Ishijima

PAN-ARAB GAMES

Iraq's four-goal rally is in vain

JORDAN, the hosts, beat an uncompromising Iraq side in a remarkable Final of the ninth Pan-Arab Games. Victory meant that they retained the trophy they won two ago in Beirut.

A packed stadium – including King Abdullah – saw Jordan coasting with a four-goal lead and only 20 minutes to play. Then Iraq staged a remarkable comeback, scoring three times in five minutes before levelling the scores to force extra time.

There were no more goals, and Jordan took the shoot-out 3-1.

Home striker Badran Al-Shaqran was the tournament's top scorer with seven goals.

Mohamed Chbaro

ROUND-UP

Al-Nejmeh miss out

In **LEBANON**, the 12-day Viceroy Cup will be played without the holders, Al-Nejmeh, for the first time.

The competition usually heralds the opening of the season, and features the top six clubs from the previous season. Al-Nejmeh, who beat Al-Ansar 2-1 in last year's tournament, were seventh, so failed to qualify.

Newly-promoted Al-Hikmeh have completed the signing of Lebanese-Brazilian playmaker Salomon Salha and Romanian defender Christian Dimitriu.

Mohamed Chbaro

MALAYSIA: In Group A of the Malaysia Cup, the most sought-after domestic trophy, Perlis are leading with four points from two matches, while in Group B Melaka are the table winners with four points. The top two finishers in each group advance to the semi-finals.

ASIAN CUP: Iraq are in first place in Group 1 of the qualifying round for the Asian Cup 2000 with nine points. Tajikistan were second, three points behind.

ASIAN CLUB CUP: In the first round, first leg matches in the East Asia zone, Mohan Bagan of India beat Muktijoddah of Bangladesh 2-1 in Calcutta.

Azam Mahmood

ARAB CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Al-Ahly host Arab finals

THE 15th Arab Club Championship finals are to be held in Cairo from September 23 to October 3, with Al Ahly as hosts.

Five clubs from Asia and three from Africa will compete in two round-robin groups of four, with the top two from each going into the semi-finals.

Defending champions Wadad Tlemcen of Algeria are the seeds in Group 1, where they are to play Saudi Arabia's Al-Shabab of Riyadh, Kuwait's Al-Salmiya and the runners-up of qualifying Group 4, still to be decided.

Al-Ahly are the top seeds in Group 2, where they play Bahrain's West Riffa, and the winners of the other two qualifying groups.

Qualifying Group 3 comprises Libya's Al-Mehalla, Tunisia's Olympique Beja and Sun Lake of Mauritania, while qualifying Group 4 features Syria's Al-Jaish, Al-Wahadat of Jordan and Rafah Services of Palestine.

Former World Cup striker Saeed Al-Owairan scored a goal in each half to take Al-Shabab of Riyadh past Sudan's Al-Hilal and into the finals.

Al-Owairan, now 32, remains one of Al-Shabab's stars with his splendid individual skills and vast experience.

Mohamed Chbaro

Still scoring...Saeed Al-Owairan

SOUTH EAST ASIAN GAMES

Thais take title

Thailand, under English coach Peter Withe, beat Vietnam in the Final of the South East Asian (SEA) Games football tournament. It was their fourth straight title in the competition.

The Thais dominated the first half and goals in each half from midfielders Thavatchai Ongtrakul at and Dusit Chalermsan.

Indonesia beat Singapore in a penalty shoot-out to take the bronze after their third place play-off finished goalless.

Azam Mahmood

OCEANIA

Two for Tee, maybe?

ENGLISH striker Jason Tee's dreams of gaining winners' medals from New Zealand's two major domestic competitions this year are still alive.

Tee, a former Sheffield United apprentice who moved to Dunedin Technical after a stint with Hong Kong Rangers, was a key figure in a 2-1 victory over Napier City Rovers in a Chatham Cup semi-final. Waitakere City also reached the Final by overwhelming Takapuna City 4-0.

Dunedin Tech lead the South Island League as well, but their only defeat of the season to date, 3-0 at Woolston WMC, threatens to cost them dearly. Woolston, with a game in hand, are only one point adrift.

Waitakere also retain hopes of the Chatham Cup and New Zealand Club Championship double. They are 12 points behind Central United in the North Island League, but have played three games fewer.

In **AUSTRALIA**, 35-year-old Frank Farina has been appointed national team coach. He won 37 caps during an extensive career in Europe, notably with Club Brugge in Belgium, returned to Australia in 1995, and guided Brisbane Strikers to an unlikely national league title, as player-coach, two years later.

The inaugural **OCEANIA CHAMPIONS CUP**, which will decide the region's representatives in next year's World Club Championship, is to be contested in Fiji, starting on September 20.

The teams will be Nadi (Fiji), Malaita Eagles (Solomon Islands), Kiwi (Samoa), AS. Venus (Tahiti), Konica (New Caledonia), Tafea (Vanuatu), South Melbourne (Australia) and the yet-to-be- determined New Zealand champions.

In **FIJI**, Ba are on course to regain the national title. They remain four points clear of defending champions Nadi, and have a match in hand.

Most attention is now on the other end of the table, where Suva face the prospect of relegation to Division Two for the first time.

Paul Moon

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CLUES ACROSS

7 .....Fiorentina defender recruited by Trapattoni from Brescia (5)
8 .....Former Atletico man who coached Malaga's promotion side (5)
9 .....Coach of Palmeiras (7)
10 ...Strasbourg's ex-Cotton Club and Xamax defender from Cameroon (3)
11 ... Ray Stadium club from France (4)
13 ...Defending champions of Finland (4)
17 ...Coach who guided Passarella's Uruguay to the Copa America final (3)
18 ...Ex-keeper in charge of Paraguay's Copa America '99 campaign (7)
20 ...Recently-retired Cameroon goalie, twice African Player of the Year (5)
21 ...One-time England and Benfica forward at Middlesbrough (5)

CLUES DOWN

1 .....Ismailia and Egypt midfielder who joined Kocaelispor in Turkey (6)
2 .....Madrid club promoted with Malaga, Numancia and Sevilla (4)
3 .....Coach who resigned his post at relegated Tenerife (5)
4 .....1999 World Youth Cup winners (5)
5 .....City in which the Gerhard-Hanappi Stadium is sited (6)
6 .....French striker recently transferred from Lorient to Montpellier (4)
12 ...Atletico's Argentina centre-back previously with Lazio (6)
14 ...Successor to Galis as Slovakia's national coach (6)
15 ...Russian striker whose goals sank France in Paris on June 5th (5)
16 ...Coach who brought the Polish title to Widzew Lodz and Wisla (5)
17 ...Keeper doubling as a midfielder with Uruguay's Buceo (4)
19....Homeland of former Asian Footballer of the Year, Khodadad Azizi (4)

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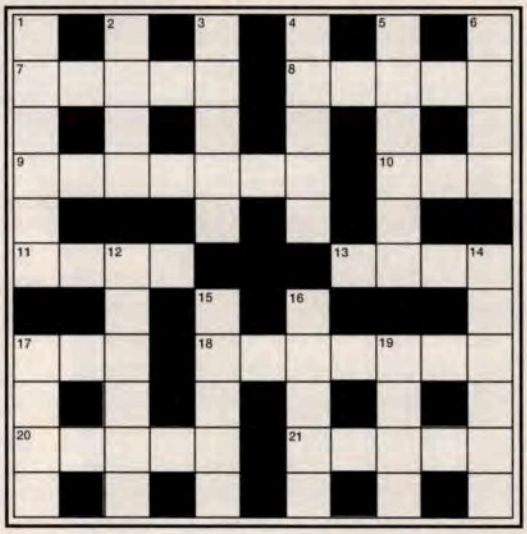

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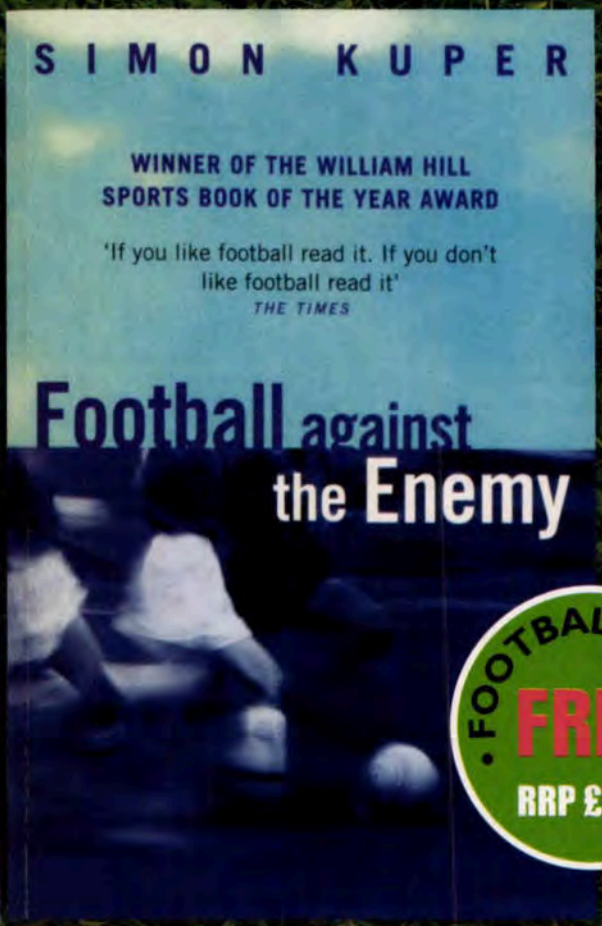

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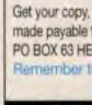

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Brian Glanville's LAST WORD

'The new Sports Minister was obliged to make a grovelling retreat after her attack on Manchester United'

Shot by Banks or hanged by Hoey?

Insensitive...Sports Minister Kate Hoey

WOULD YOU rather be shot or hanged? Put it a different way. Would you rather have Tony Banks or Kate Hoey as Sports Minister? Scarcely had the egregious Banks resigned from the job he had done so deplorably than in came Kate Hoey, to start, one assumes, as she grotesquely means to go on.

With an insensitivity, a superficiality, that almost passed belief in a supposedly intelligent person, she immediately attacked Manchester United for their 'shabby' behaviour in withdrawing from the FA Cup, only to be obliged almost immediately to make a grovelling retreat.

It was well enough known at the time that government pressure (i.e. Banks), mediated through a flaccid FA, had forced United to withdraw in the first place. To Hoey's increased embarrassment, in no time at all a letter from Banks to Roland Smith, head of Manchester United plc, was published, alleging that three FIFA members would not vote for England in the 2006 World Cup poll unless the European champions went to Brazil.

I imagine that the delectable Kate is still cleaning the egg off her face.

Some years ago, I criticised her strongly for sheltering behind Parliamentary privilege in the Commons to make accusations about the activities of Terry Venables and George Graham. She may indeed have had a case, but it was clear she had done no original research and was merely rehashing articles that had appeared in the papers.

Private Eye, which clearly thinks as little of her as I do, recently reminded us that when it came to the FA Premier League inquiry on 'bungs', in 1997, "she refused to assist the inquiry by repeating her claims outside the protection of Parliamentary privilege. The FA said it was 'unhappy' with her lack of co-operation, while the co-author of the inquiry report, Robert Reid QC, commented wryly that 'nothing surprises me about politicians'."

As the *Eye* suggests, the obvious choice for Sports Minister was Tom Pendry, well informed and well respected in football circles. But after Banks, Hoey. Ouch!

Give orange a chance

ALL CREDIT to the Football League for their excellent if belated suggestion that referees be allowed to flourish orange cards, rather than red, on a second caution.

I have never liked the red and yellow system, ever since I saw it in operation in Mexico City in 1968, during the Olympic football Final. It enabled, or obliged, the Italo-Mexican referee, Di Leo, to ruin what was potentially a fine game with a plethora of sendings-off.

After the Charity Shield in August, Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson complained about the number of yellow cards that had been brandished. It was always like this, he lamented, at the beginning of a season, when referees were doing what they had been told. This, for him, had been a match in which nothing of ill consequence had happened; an opinion not all of us shared.

But lo and behold, scarcely had the League season got under way than leniency rather than rigour seemed to be the refereeing fashion. When Spurs played Everton, George Graham, the Tottenham boss, excoriated the refereeing of Paul Alcock and the inadequacy of his linespeople, one of them a women.

Big of him, because the chief sufferer appeared to be Everton's young Francis Jeffers, twice blatantly hacked down with no yellow card shown.

When Manchester United went to Highbury, Arsenal's Vieira was scythed down three times, the first by Keane – with whom he would later clash – though only the third, by Scholes, brought a yellow from the deeply unimpressive Graham Poll.

When Arsenal played Bradford City three days later, an appalling tackle from behind by a Bradford defender did not lead to automatic expulsion, which it should have according to FIFA and International Board rulings.

By contrast, two trivial yellow card offences can result in automatic expulsion; the poor referee has no option.

Years ago, a somewhat controversial referee, Gordon Hill, suggested the compromise of a super caution, rather than expulsion, for a second, less lethal, offence, but nobody deemed to take any notice. The orange card could be the answer.

Flashpoint...Keane v Vieira

Bad feeling...Ferguson's book has caused a rift with Brian Kidd, the former assistant at Manchester United

Ferguson, man who cannot forgive

"NICE GUYS finish last," said Leo Durocher, a celebrated American baseball manager. The French revolutionary, Saint Just, opined: "You cannot govern without blood on your hands." So perhaps the furore and evident surprise over Alex Ferguson's recent autobiography has been excessive.

Like Eddie Carbone in Arthur Miller's turgid drama *A View From The Bridge*, he has "allowed himself to be known".

Some have called him thin-skinned, others 'vindictive'. But were his Scottish predecessors really so different?

Matt Busby, for a start. The grand architect of Manchester United's fame and fortune, the man who took the club over in 1945 when it barely had a home – Old Trafford having been bombed in the war – and transformed it into the power it still is today; the man who survived the Munich air crash to rebuild a team capable of winning the European Cup, a decade later.

The tendency for a long time was to portray Busby as a fatherly, avuncular figure. But was he? And if he had been, would he have been capable of the achievements he realised?

What of his close relationship with the ineffable Louis Edwards, who after endless finagling became chairman and chief shareholder of the club, following that decent little man, Harold Hardman? Edwards, who died in the bath, two steps ahead of the posse closing in on him, when it was revealed that his butcher's firm had been selling inferior meat to schools by bribing the local government officer involved?

And what of Busby's relations with the first two managers who followed him, on his supposed retirement?

Wilf McGuinness and Frank O'Farrell, who resigned in great bitterness, found it impossible to work under Busby's pervasive shadow. McGuinness was put under such cruel pressure that he lost all his hair. You may still meet him now in press rooms. He has become a radio commentator; a humorous, likeable, decent, forgiving man, but one who clearly has not forgotten.

Bill Shankly, who took Liverpool out of the Second Division and to remarkable heights of success, was another Scot famous for his apophthegms, a splendid raconteur, sublimely idiosyncratic.

But there was a harsh side to him as well. "He can treat you like dirt," I can remember the Liverpool left-back, Alec Lindsay, telling me. And 'Shanks' was famous or infamous for the way he marginalised and turned the light of his countenance from any injured player, as if they were in some sense guilty parties.

Jock Stein of Celtic could be a hard man, too. He moulded a team, admirably built on Glaswegian talent, into a European power, but by the end of his regime the likes of John 'Yogi Bear' Hughes had fallen out of love with him.

None of these three celebrated Scots, however, produced the kind of revelatory autobiography that Ferguson has at least had the honesty to publish.

Resentment keeps bubbling up, forgiveness is at a premium, old wounds re-open – presuming that they ever closed. Back we go to the 1986 World Cup, when Ferguson unsuccessfully managed Scotland and omitted Alan Hansen. It seemed like a serious mistake at the time, which may even have cost Scotland, indirectly, the presence of Kenny Dalglish – and it still seems so in retrospect. But Ferguson will have nothing of it – Hansen's "attitude" was wrong.

Brian Kidd and Gordon Strachan, both managers now, are each impugned. Kidd allegedly has been persuaded by John Barnwell of the managers' association not to sue Ferguson. Strachan seems to have laughed off this idea. Personally, I didn't feel that Kidd had a case, though Strachan, "who could not be trusted an inch", probably did.

Then there is the evident necessity never to be wrong, as exemplified by Ferguson's account of the 1999 European Cup Final against Bayern Munich, which on the play, he insists, United so clearly deserved to win.

To the less informed of us, it seemed that Ferguson enjoyed fabulous luck. Twice Bayern hit the woodwork, and United saved and won the game only when Solskjaer and Sheringham were so belatedly sent on.

Ferguson has indeed allowed himself to be known; and for this, perhaps, we should salute him, rather than condemn him.

Girls on top, US style

HOW IRONIC that after 92,000 turned up to watch the USA women squeak through on penalties against China in Pasadena for the world title, the US media largely ignored the admirable display of the men's team in the Confederations Cup. They whipped Germany 2-0 with a largely reserve team and succumbed to Mexico only in extra time.

Let's face it. In that feminised society, that sports world dominated by basketball, gridiron football and baseball, soccer has little real chance.

My learned friend Paul Gardner describes the euphoria over the women – soccer level, as Jeff Powell wrote in the *Mail*, about that of a club's Under-16 team – as a phenomenon. There's little to be done. Feminism rules.

October 1961

THE PHOTOGRAPH ON the front cover of the October 1961 issue was some two and a half years old, but it served to illustrate a major feature on soccer in South America.

The match in question was Peru versus England in Lima in May 1959, and the player making the overhead kick, Juan Seminario, scored three goals that day. He was the third to do so in a post-war full international against England, following Hidegkuti of Hungary in 1953 and Petakovic of Yugoslavia in 1958…but only Van Basten of Holland has achieved the feat in all those years since then.

The issue also contained a lengthy history of the Mitropa Cup, which preceded the post-war European club competitions, and a piece on Johnny Crossan, the Northern Ireland forward who had been banned for life by the Irish FA.

Crossan took advantage of a loophole in the regulations to play for Sparta Rotterdam and Standard Liege before the suspension was lifted. He then played for various English clubs and finished with 24 caps, the first of them gained at Wembley against England at a time when he was supposedly barred from playing there.

Commentator Kenneth Wolstenholme contributed an article about his travels on behalf of TV, making the point that Real Madrid's *basic* income was about seven times Bolton's *total* income. Nowadays?

"The Dukla dazzlers bamboozled Everton" was the heading on the summary of the eight-club United States International Soccer League. The Czech club won the Final 9-2 on aggregate, while another of the participants, Montreal Concordia, "created a surprise" by fielding a team with players from six nations.

Elsewhere, there was news of the retirement of Italian hero Giampiero Boniperti at the age of 33, after 444 games for Juventus and five League titles. The issue also featured a spectacular photo of Greek George Toufexis, the so-called 'Flying Keeper'.

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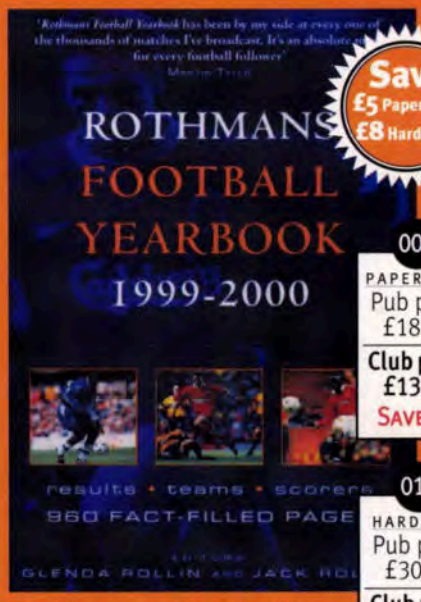

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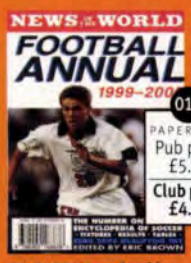

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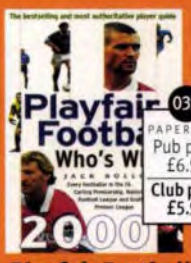

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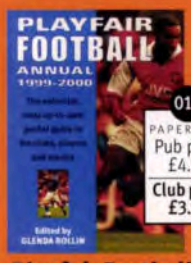

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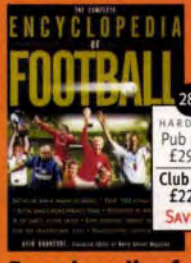

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